

KING FORNÉS STEWART
DANGER
STREET



FORNÉS



BOOK SEVEN

THE CREEPER

17+
MATURE

DANGER STREET

BOOK SEVEN

CHAPTER 7: THE CREEPER

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*THE SENSATIONAL
RETURN OF THE
MACABRE
MANHUNTER!*



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DAWN OF DC

**6 ISSUES
JULY**

HAWKGIRL

**ON HER OWN...
IN METROPOLIS...
SOARING TO
NEW HEIGHTS!**

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Written by
**JADZIA
AXELROD**

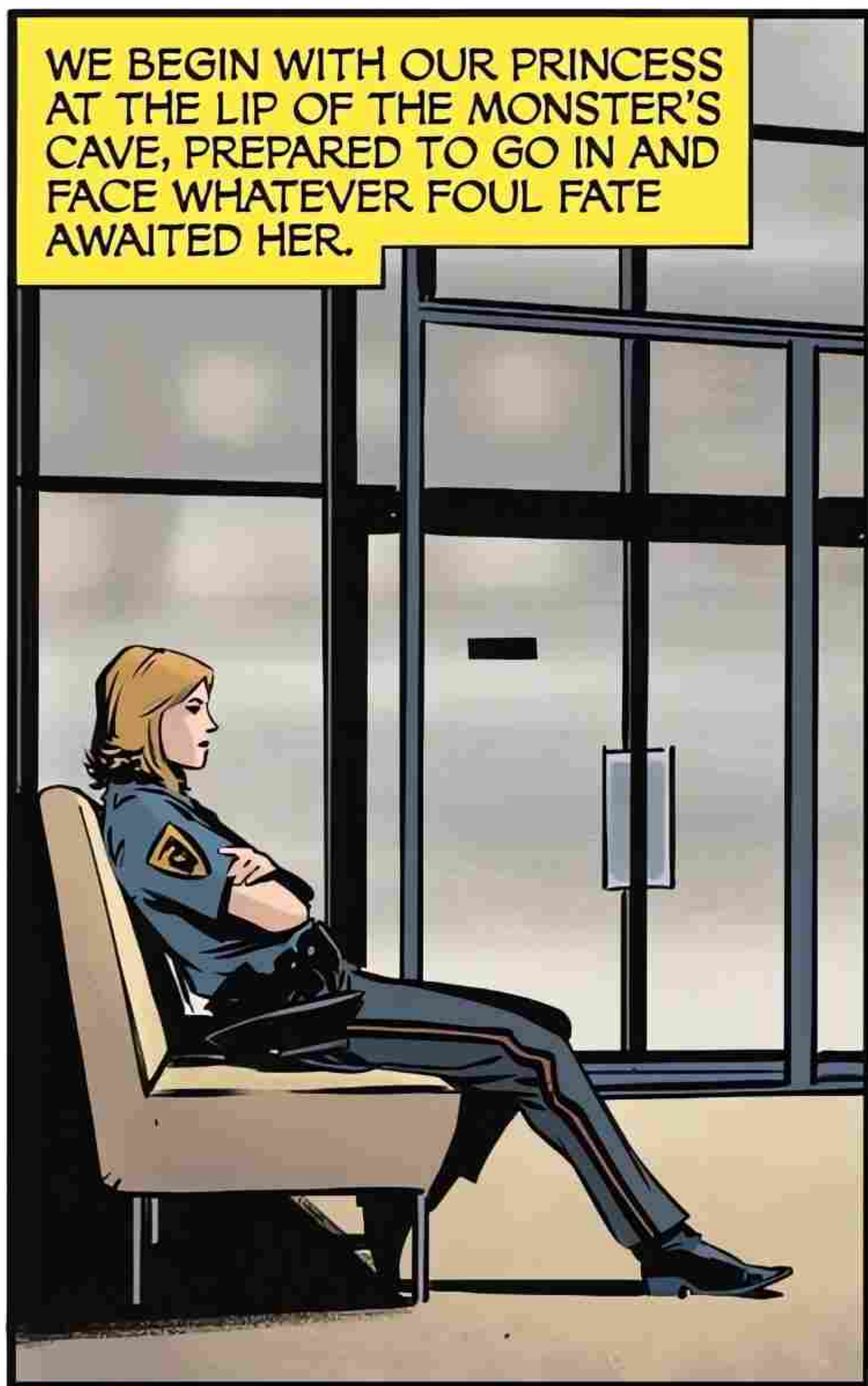
Art by
**AMANCAY
NAHUEL PAN**

**FORGING THE FUTURE
ONE HERO AT A TIME**



OUR STORY CONTINUES!

ONE MONTH LATER!



WE BEGIN WITH OUR PRINCESS AT THE LIP OF THE MONSTER'S CAVE, PREPARED TO GO IN AND FACE WHATEVER FOUL FATE AWAITED HER.



BUT AS SHE STEPPED FORWARD, SHE WAS IMMEDIATELY CONFRONTED BY ONE OF THE MONSTER'S MOST FEROCIOUS UNDERLINGS.

EXCUSE ME?



AND HER PRESUMED ENTRANCE TO THAT GHASTLY SANCTUARY WAS SOON IN DOUBT.

YES, MISS?



I HAD AN APPOINTMENT AT ELEVEN A.M. WITH THE **COMMODORE...**



OH, YES, HE'S RUNNING A TAD BEHIND.

HE'LL BE WITH YOU SHORTLY. I APOLOGIZE FOR THE DELAY.



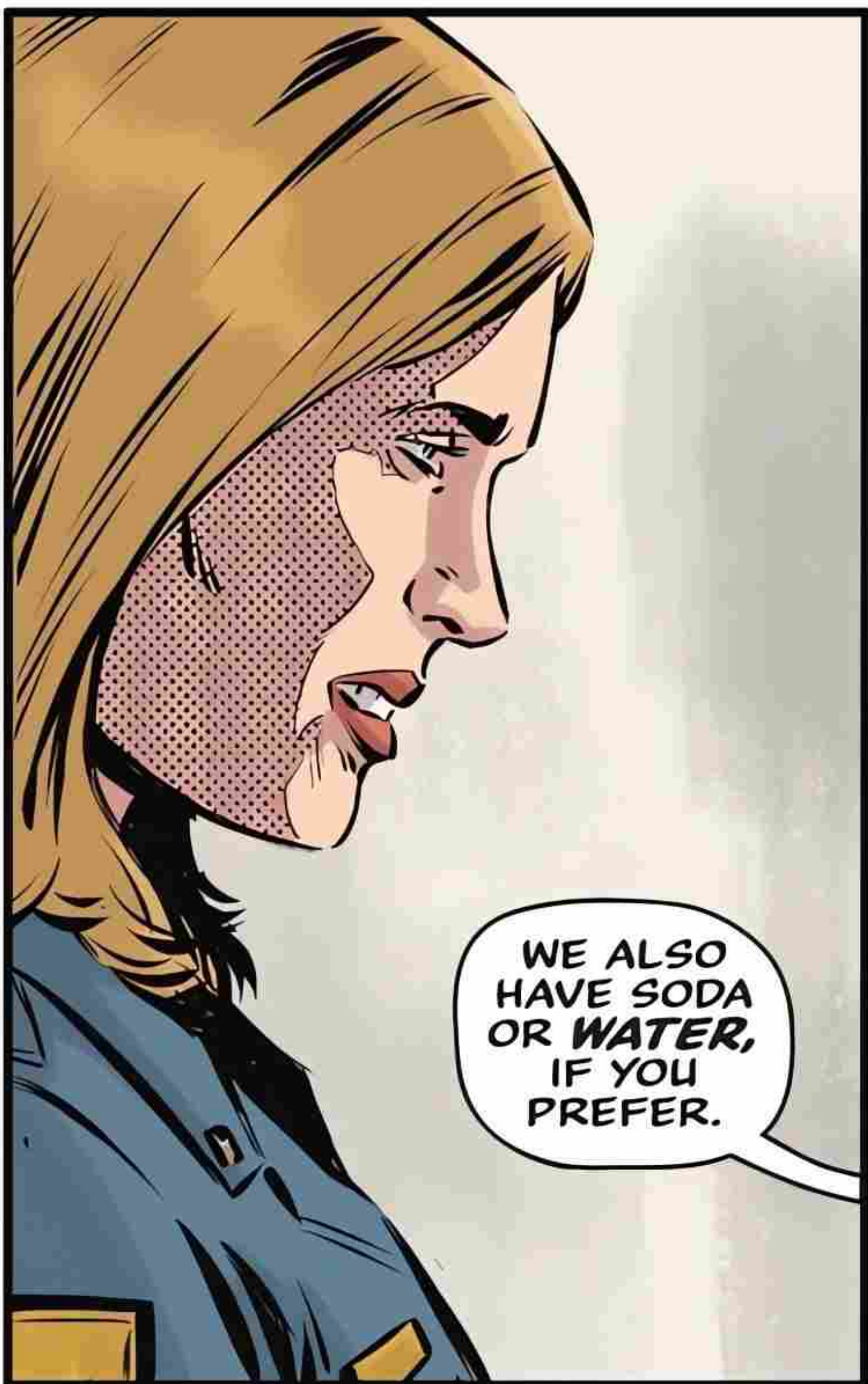
IT'S NEARLY 3:30 NOW. WE WORKED FOR QUITE SOME TIME TO LINE THIS UP.

I THINK YOU AND I SPOKE, WHAT? HALF A DOZEN TIMES, **PLUS** A HERD OF LAWYERS.

THIS IS A MATTER OF **POLICE** BUSINESS HAVING TO DO WITH MULTIPLE MURDERS.

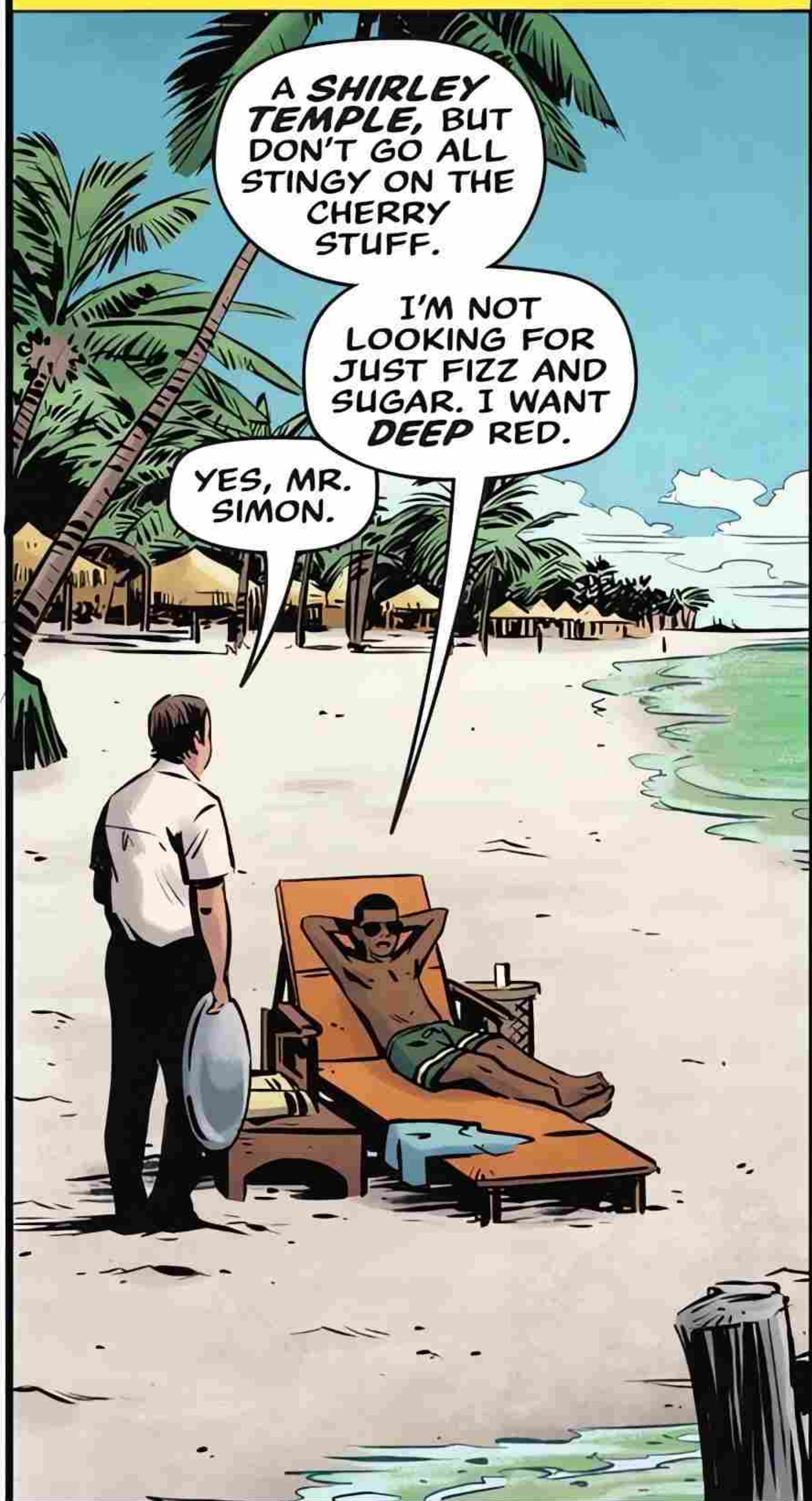


WOULD YOU LIKE SOME COFFEE OR TEA WHILE YOU WAIT?

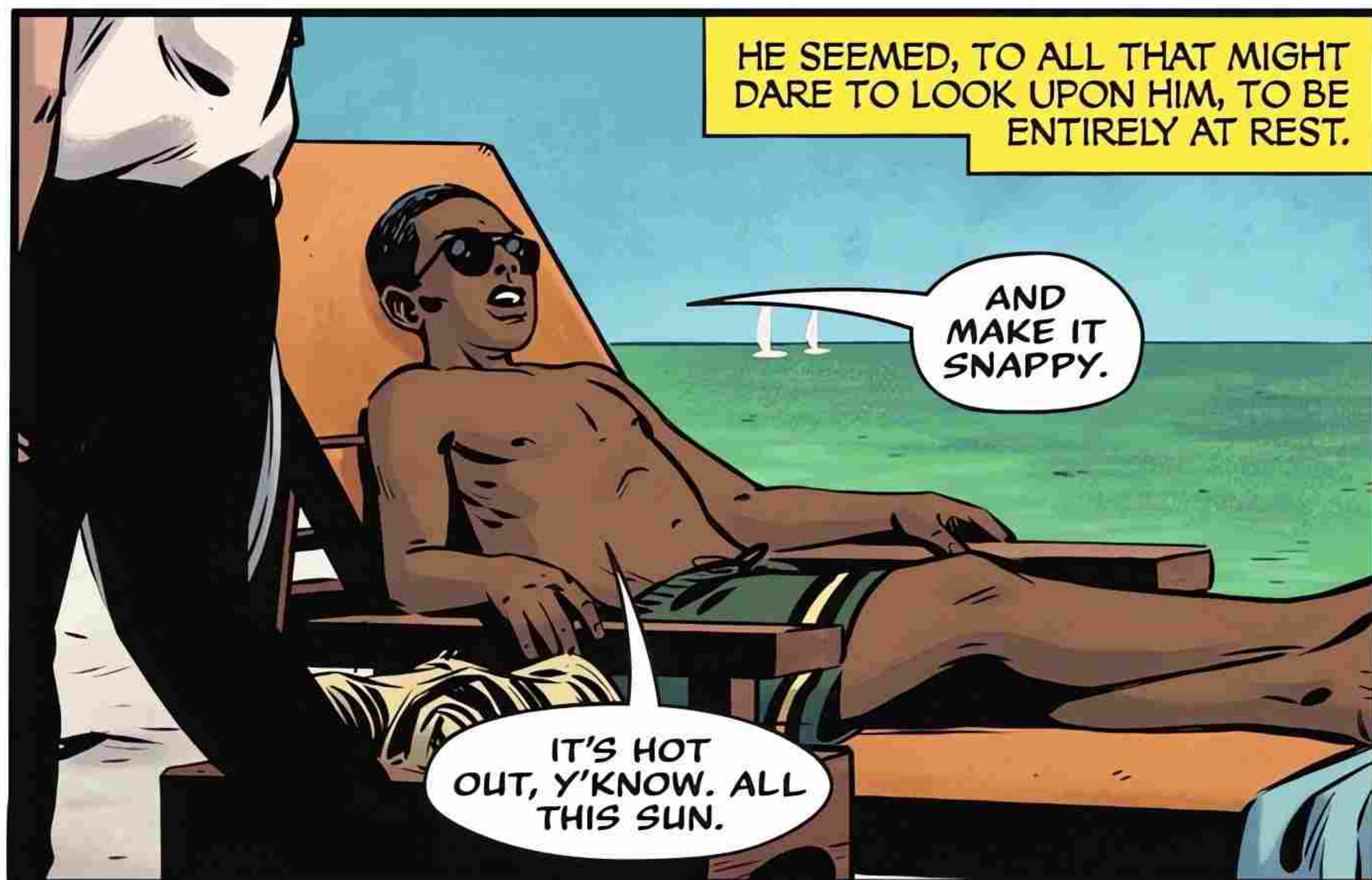


WE ALSO HAVE SODA OR **WATER**, IF YOU PREFER.

WHILE ONE MONSTER KEPT TO HIS SHADOWY KEEP, MILES AWAY, ACROSS AN OCEAN, ANOTHER SAT EXPOSED IN THE MIDDAY SUN.



HE SEEMED, TO ALL THAT MIGHT DARE TO LOOK UPON HIM, TO BE ENTIRELY AT REST.



NOW, WHEN LAST WE SAW THIS MONSTER, IN THE MIDST OF A DESPERATE FLEE FROM DANGER, HE HAD SOUGHT PROTECTION FROM A COMPANY OF ROGUES.



HOW DID HE THEN ESCAPE TO THIS PARADISE?



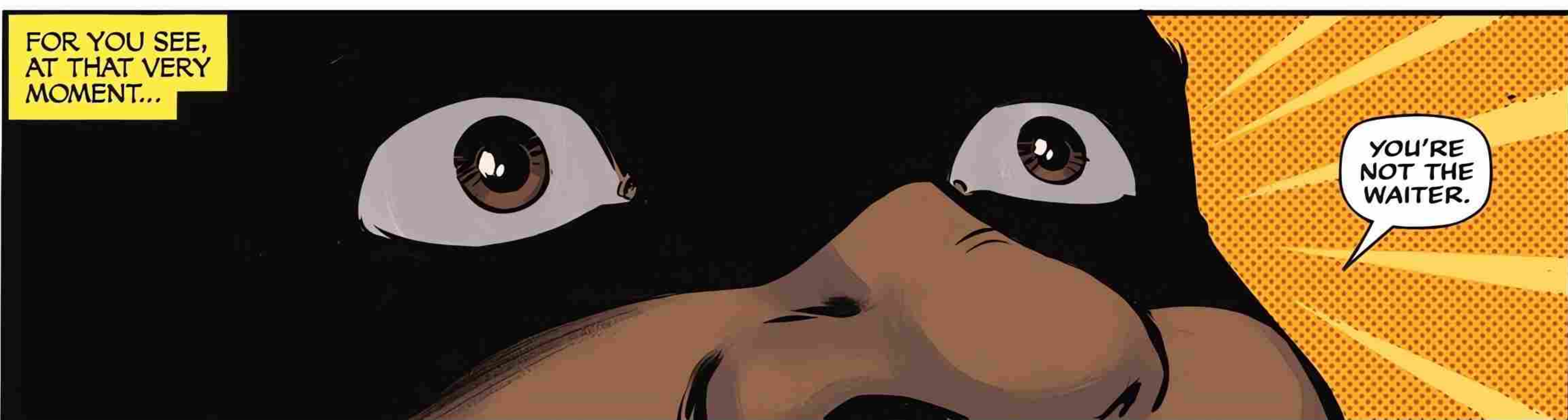
IT WOULD BE AN EXCITING STORY, WERE THAT I HAD TIME NOW TO TELL IT.



BUT I DO NOT.



FOR YOU SEE, AT THAT VERY MOMENT...



...A KNIGHT WITH SAVAGE INTENT CAME UPON HIM, AND THE MONSTER FOUND HIMSELF EYE TO EYE WITH THE OBLIVION OF DEATH!

WHICH IS, I DO AVER, A
STORY MORE WORTHY OF
OUR CURRENT ATTENTION.

AND
YOU'RE NOT
MR. SIMON.





BACK AT THE WESTERN FRONTIER OF OUR KINGDOM LAY A SIGN, WHICH ACTED AS BOTH A MARKER AND, TRUTH BE TOLD, A WARNING.

DANGER STREET

A WARNING THAT THOUGH OFTEN EXPRESSED WAS RARELY HEEDDED BY OUR YOUNG, GOOD LADS, WHO WERE AT TIMES, ADMITTEDLY, A TOUCH WILD.

DANGER STREET

HOLD STILL!

WHAT THE Ø\$%J?! YOU SEE WHAT YOU DID?!

YOU GOT **STUPID** STUFFED IN YOUR EARS?! I #~\$%ωΘ NEED **STILL!**

THIS IS A DELICATE DAMN OPERATION! EVERY TIME YOU MOVE, I Ø\$%J UP!

DANGER STREET

LOOK AT THIS MESS. THIS IS **YOU**. THIS IS WHAT **YOU** MADE ME DO TODAY.

ARE YOU--**STOP** IT! FOR Ø\$%J'S SAKE!

WHY THE Ø\$%J AM I MOVING?!

JESUS #~£%∞#@
CHRIST THE LIVING
#~£%∞#@ SAVIOR WHO
CAME #~£%∞#@ DOWN TO
SAVE US FROM OUR
#~£%∞#@ SINS!

I'M UP
HERE, GOING
TO DIE, AND
YOU'RE--

KRUNCH!

ARE YOU
SERIOUSLY
EATING THOSE
#~£%∞#@
GRAPES?
NOW?!

ANGER STREET

ONE WAY

CENTER RD

LOADING ZONE
2 HOUR
PERMIT OR PAY TO LOAD
COMMERCIAL VEHICLES ONLY

YOU KNOW,
NON-FAT, I FEEL
LIKE I'VE SPENT MY
WHOLE LIFE MOCKING
YOU, BUT I WANT YOU
TO UNDERSTAND
SOMETHING.

TODAY, FROM
THIS ANGLE,
YOU LOOK LIKE A
TOOTHPICK TRYING
TO POKE OUT
THE SUN.

AND SERIOUSLY,
I DON'T MEAN THAT
AS A JOKE, BUT AS
A METAPHOR.

YOU
SUDDENLY MAKE
SENSE.

WHAT
≡CHOMP≡
GRAPES?

DON'T
≡CHOMP≡
KNOW WHAT YOU
≡CHOMP≡
MEAN...



BOYS?



@#%\$.



@#%\$?
WHAT
@#%\$?

I'M
REALLY HOPING
HERE THAT'S NOT
A PREDICTION OF
WHAT'S COMING
NEXT.

REMEMBER,
THERE **ARE** THOSE
WHO STAND BELOW.
RIGHT UNDER,
IN FACT.



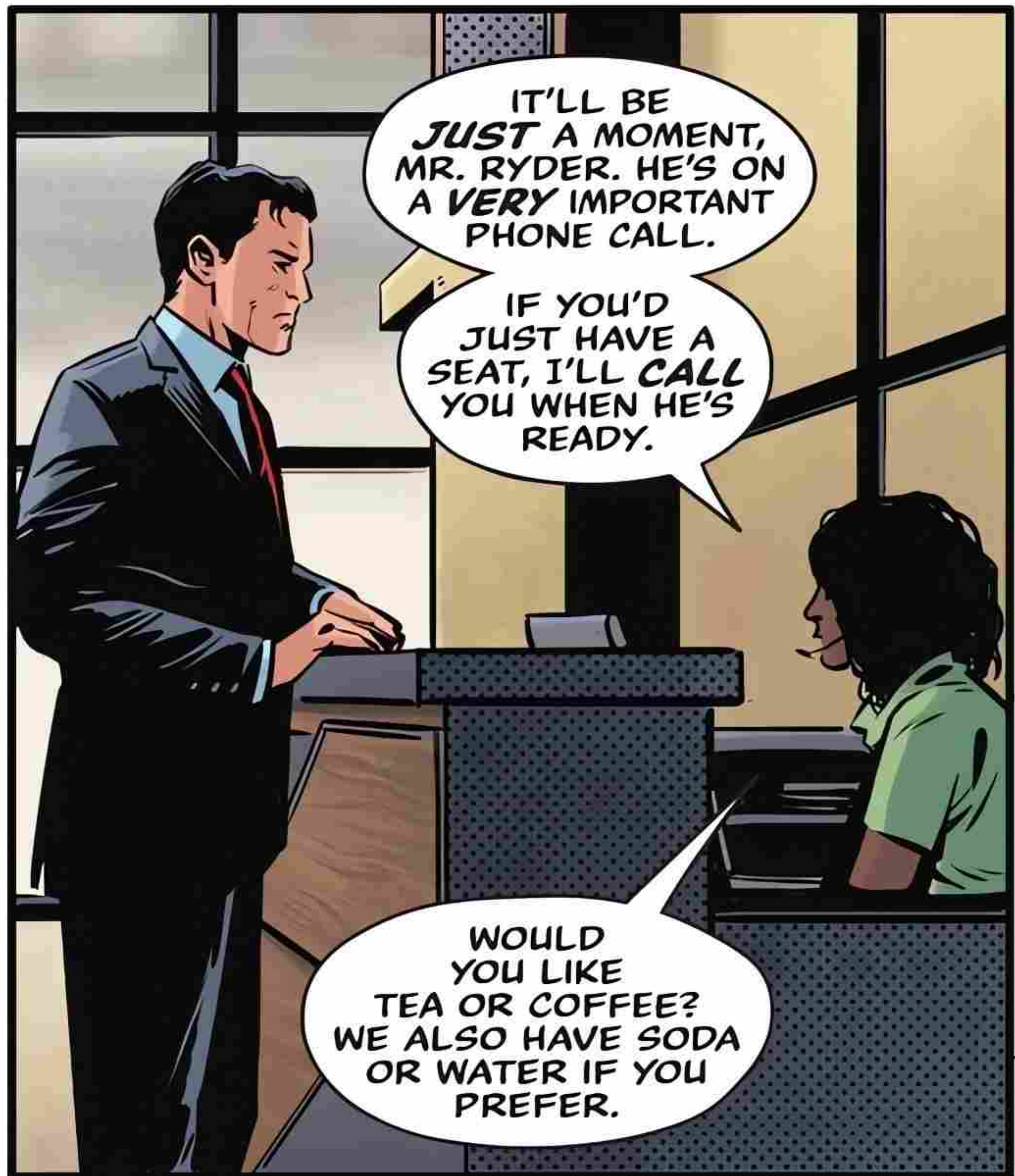
HI,
**OFFICER
COOPER!**

WE'RE
MAKING
GRAFFITI!



OKAY.

YOU'RE,
LIKE, **ALL** UNDER
ARREST.





NOTHING WORKS IN THIS WHOLE COUNTRY.

ARE THERE ANY GOOD PEOPLE LEFT?



SORRY, WHEN MY SHOW'S COMING UP, I GET **DRAMATIC**. IT'S JUST NERVES.

I SHOULD WORK ON THEM, BUT THEY SAY NERVES GIVE YOU **ENERGY** TO PERFORM.

I'M AFRAID IF I GOT RID OF THEM, I'D GO ON AIR AND DO NOTHING. LAY AN **EGG** ON MY DESK.



I SHOULD'VE INTRODUCED MYSELF.

DON'T ARREST ME. **HAHA**.

I'M **JACK RYDER**.



LIZA WARNER--**CHIEF** WARNER.

PLEASURE.



HA.

YOU KNOW, MOST PEOPLE I MEET SAY, "I KNOW WHO YOU ARE."



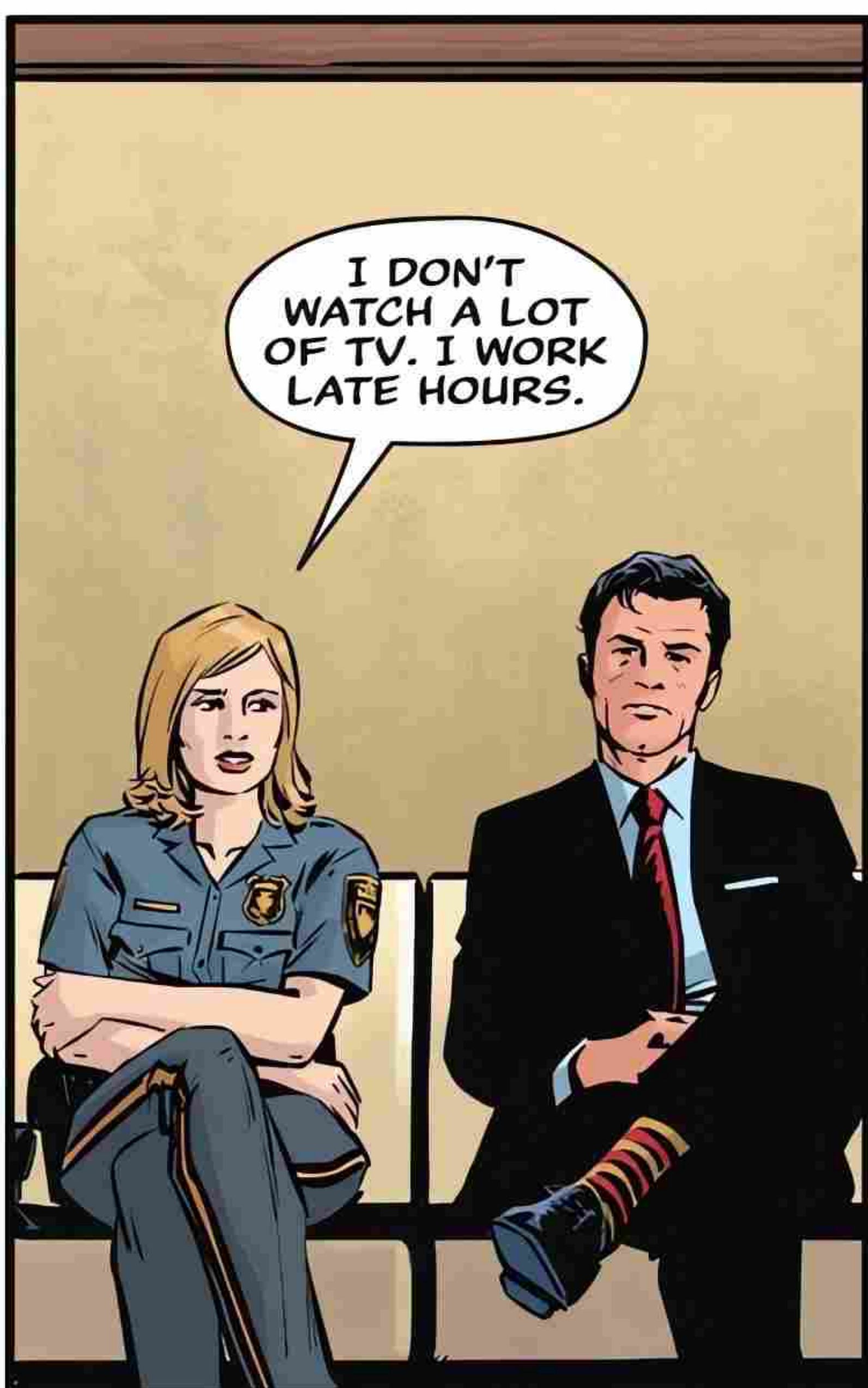
OH. THAT... THAT MUST BE NICE.

SHOULD I KNOW YOU?



WELL, *UH*, I HAVE A SHOW HERE ON GTN.

THAT'S ALL.



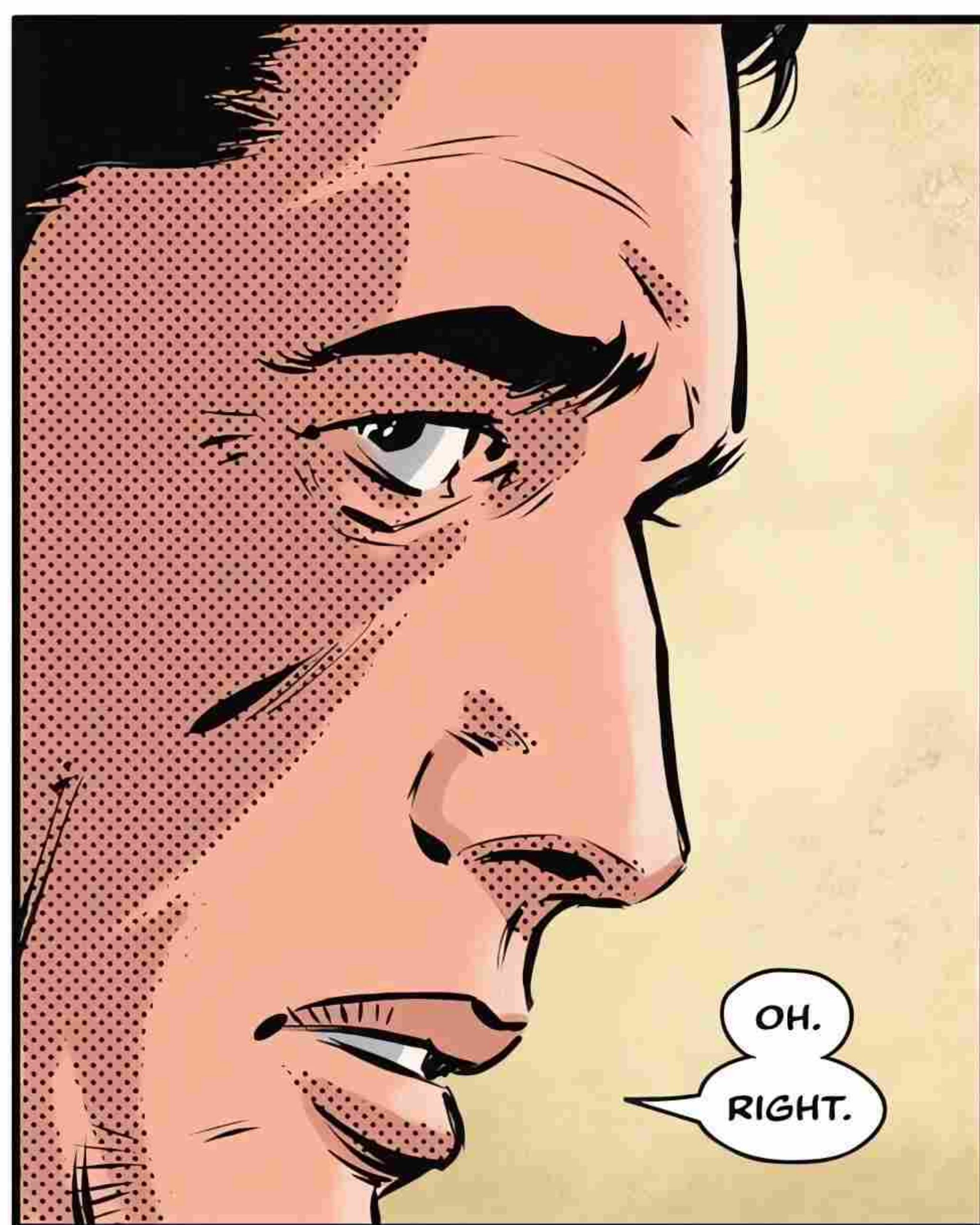
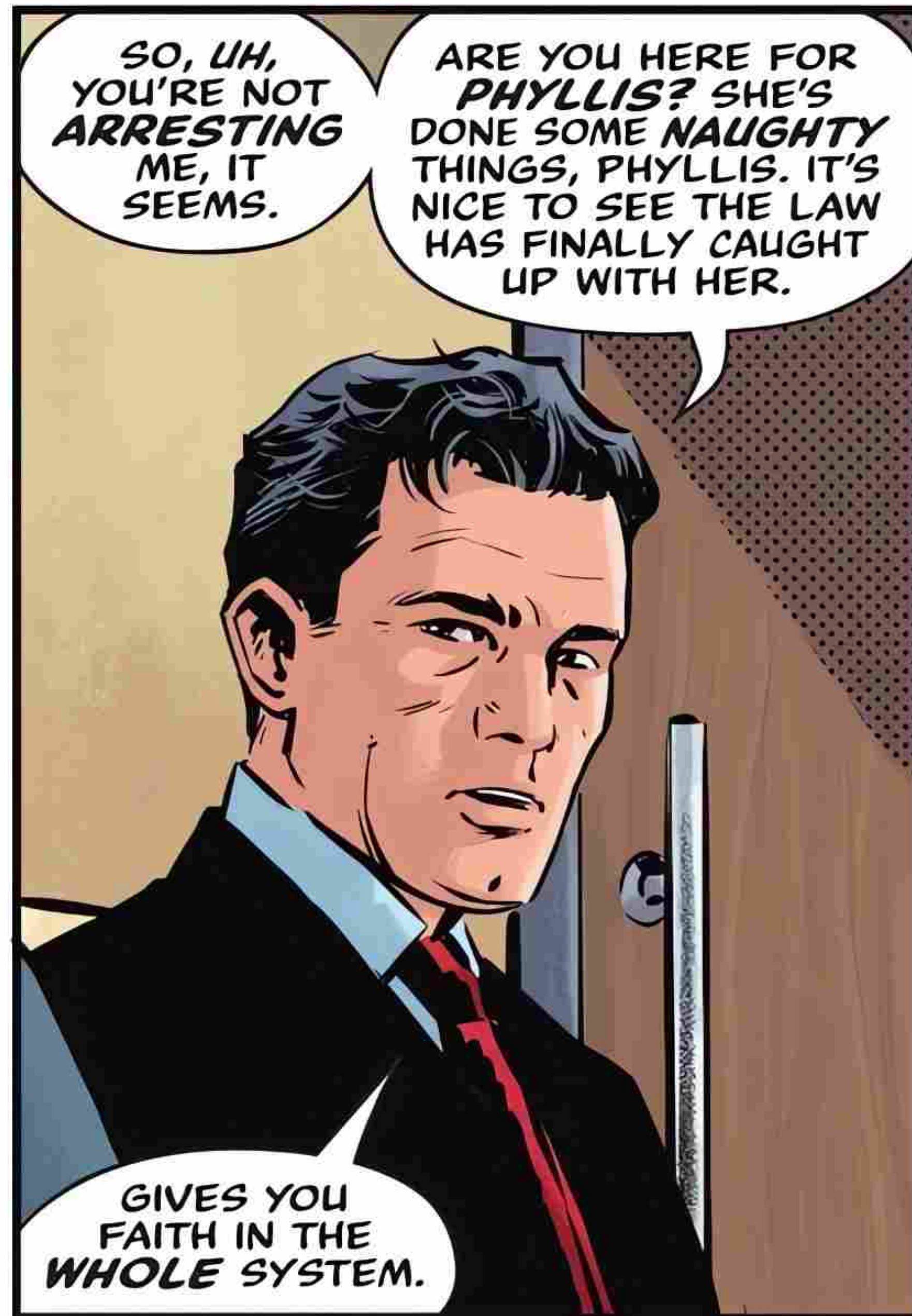
I DON'T WATCH A LOT OF TV. I WORK LATE HOURS.



THEY DO RERUNS AT ELEVEN AND AT TWO, SO IF IT'S LATE...

WE'RE ACTUALLY **NUMBER ONE** IN THOSE SLOTS.

Y'KNOW, DEPENDING ON THE MARKET. THERE'S SOME CRAZY STUFF ON IN CALIFORNIA.





FAR ABOVE, THE REALM OF DRAGONS CRACKLED WITH FIRE.

NOW, AS WE ALL KNOW, THE DESPERATION OF DRAGONS CAN BE A FIERCE AND FEARFUL SIGHT.

THEY ARE WORKING AS INSTRUCTED, MY LORD.

AS YOU WELL KNOW, APOKOLIPS ITSELF PROVIDES THE FUEL FOR THE FURNACE.

AN INCREASE IN *PRODUCTIVITY* RISKS THE DEGRADATION OF THE PLANET AT AN UNACCEPTABLY HIGH RATE.

TOO SLOW.

FOR DRAGONS HAVE A GREAT CONFIDENCE IN THEIR OWN CAPABILITIES.

YOU DARE, MANTIS?

THEY BELIEVE THE WORLD IS BUT METAL THAT MAY BE MELTED UNDER THEIR BREATH.

IT IS NOT A CONTRADICTION, LORD. I AM ATTEMPTING TO SAVE WHAT YOU HAVE BUILT.

AND RESHAPED AS THEY WISH.

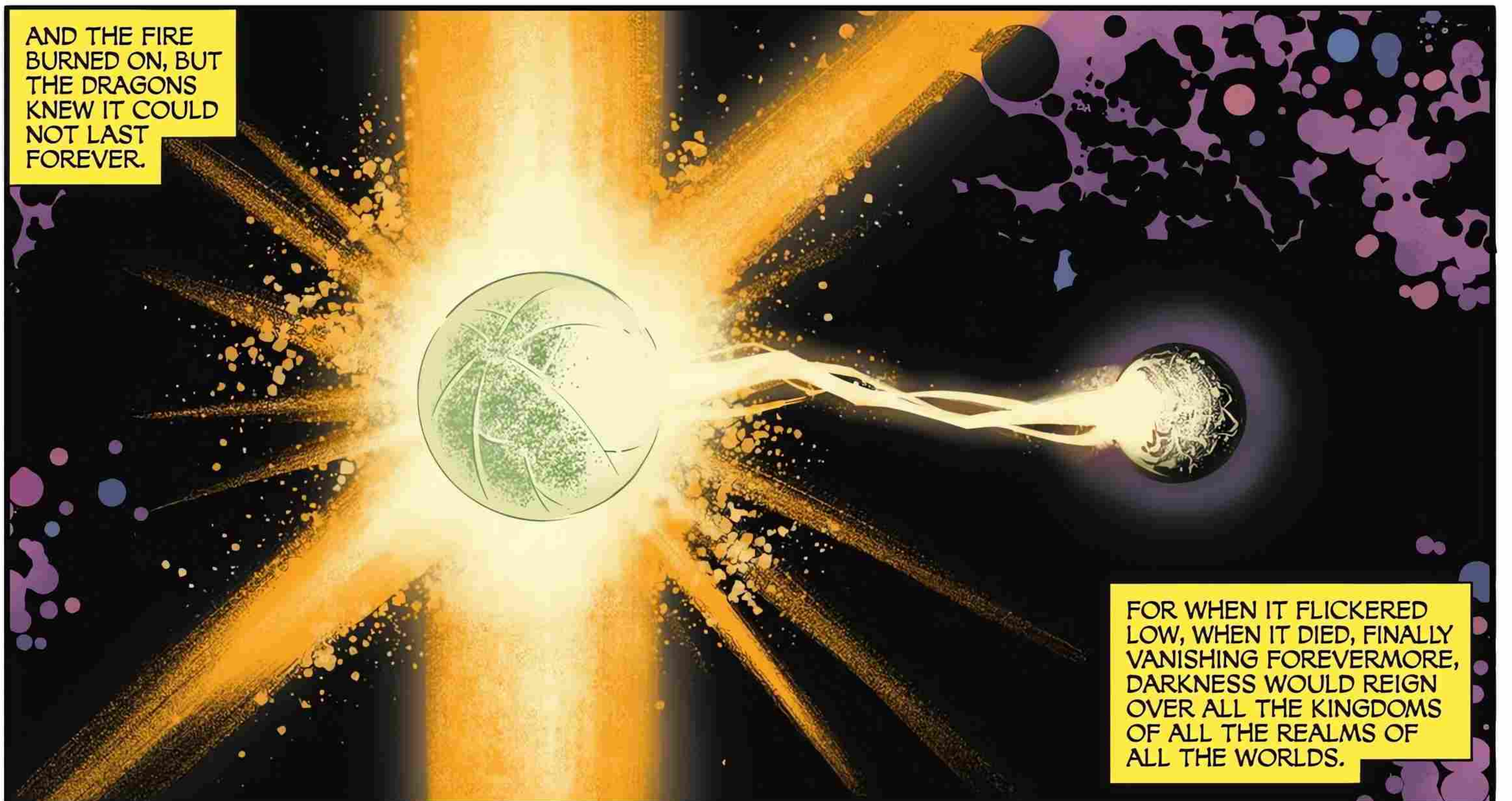
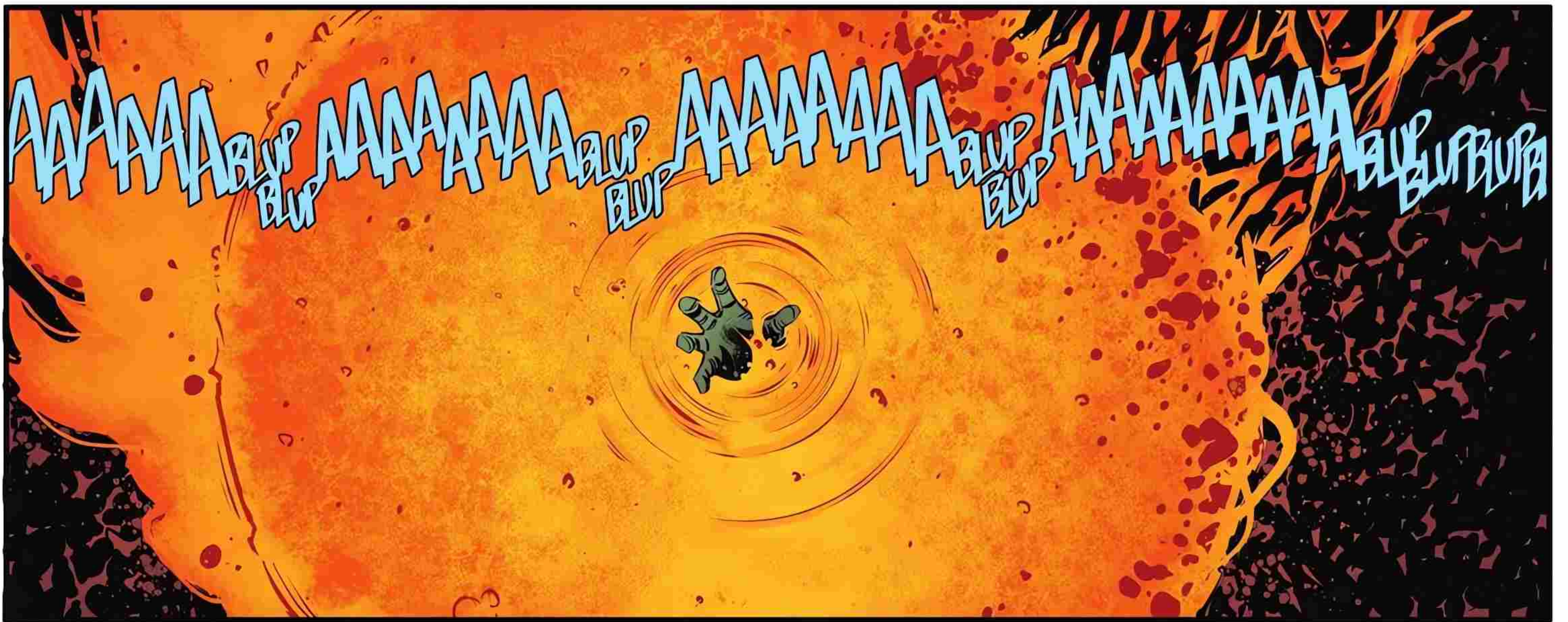
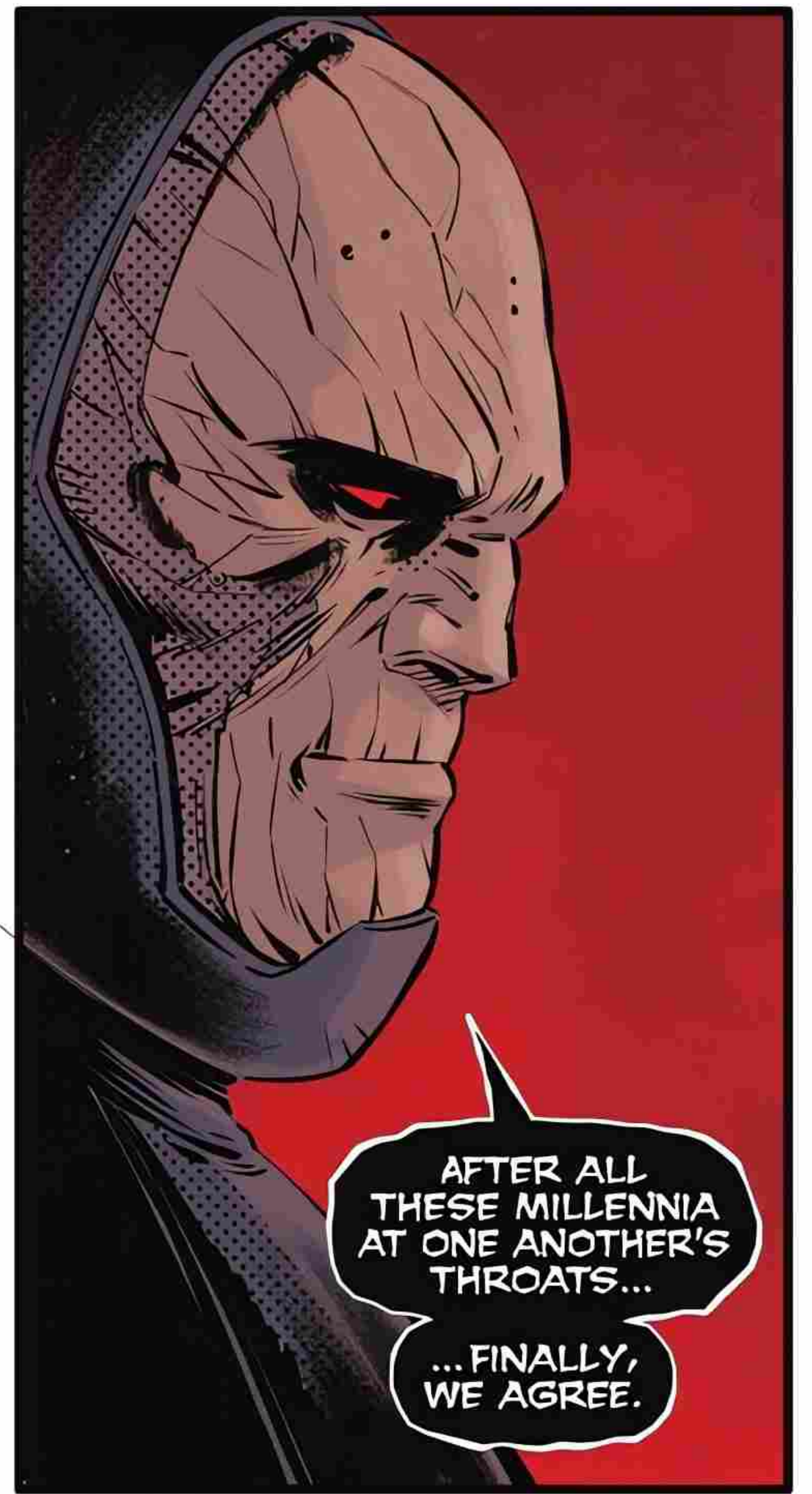
IF THE PLANET CANNOT SUSTAIN THE FLAMES...
...FIND ANOTHER SOURCE OF KINDLING.

MY LORD...

BUT NOW, AS THE SKY FELL, FOR THE FIRST TIME THE DRAGONS WERE REALIZING THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING IN THE WORLD THEIR FIRE COULD NOT MOLD, A FATE THAT COULD NOT BE DIVERTED BY THEIR WILL.

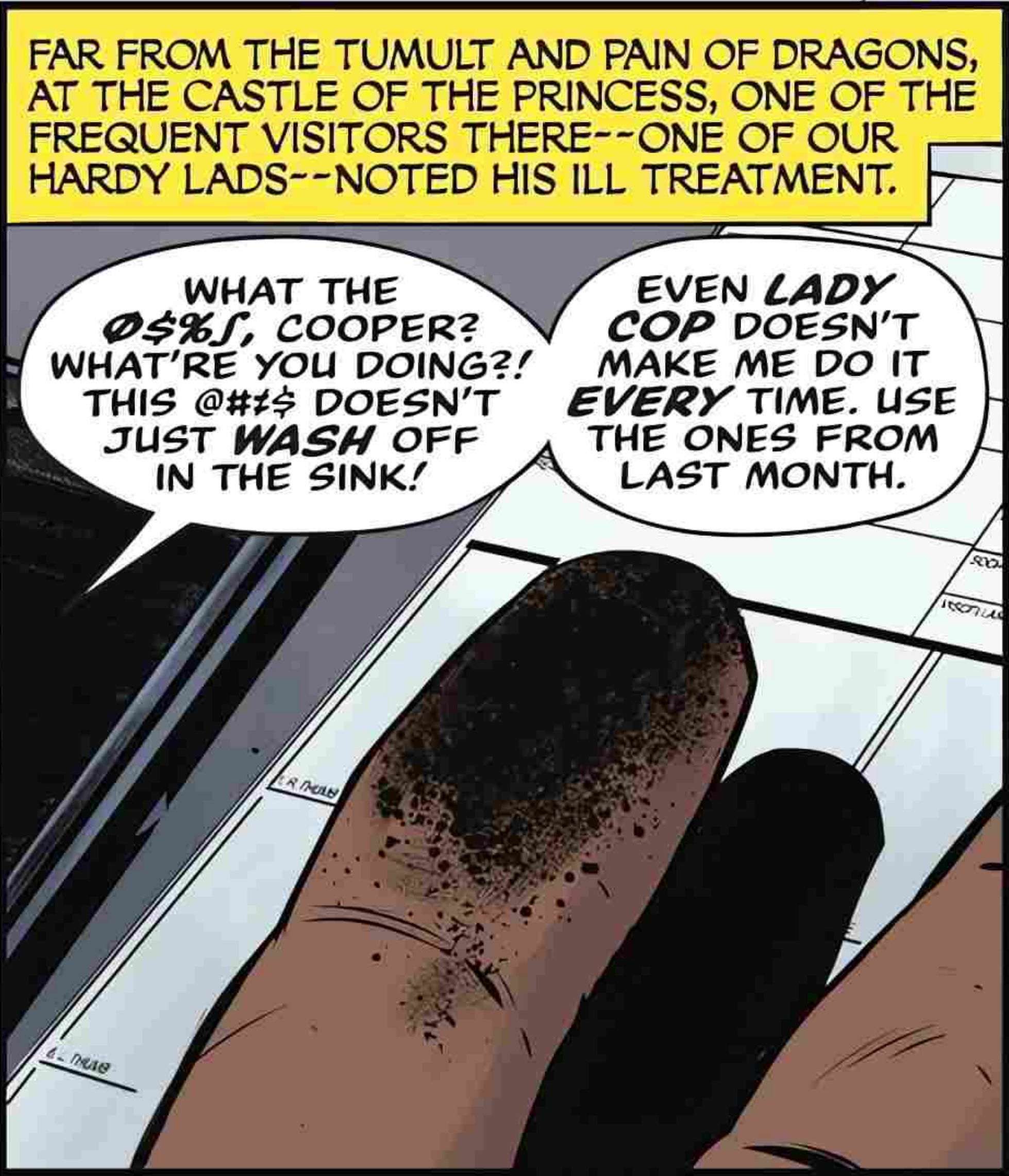
PERHAPS TRY A GOD.

THOSE TOO ARE YOUR ORDERS.



AND THE FIRE
BURNED ON, BUT
THE DRAGONS
KNEW IT COULD
NOT LAST
FOREVER.

FOR WHEN IT FLICKERED
LOW, WHEN IT DIED, FINALLY
VANISHING FOREVERMORE,
DARKNESS WOULD REIGN
OVER ALL THE KINGDOMS
OF ALL THE REALMS OF
ALL THE WORLDS.



THE LAD WAS ESCORTED BY THE PRINCESS'S FAITHFUL GUARD INTO THE DUNGEONS OF THE CASTLE.

NO.

NO, PUT ME IN THE EAST WING WITH KRUNCH AND BANANAS.

IT AIN'T CHRISTMAS, MAN. I DON'T WANT TO BE IN SOME OLD, BEARDED WHITE Ø\$%\$'S LAP.

THERE WERE, AT THAT TIME, TWO MAIN CHAMBERS IN THOSE DARK HALLS.

I GOT TWO LEGALLY OCCUPIABLE CELLS. ONE HERE, ONE OVER THERE.

THOSE ARE THE RULES.

BOTH OF WHICH WERE FAMILIAR TO OUR YOUNG LAD.

MAN, YOU DON'T KNOW @#z\$ ABOUT THE RULES. I'M UNDERAGE. YOU CAN'T PUT ME IN THERE. LADY COP WOULD KNOW.

YOU GOT TO MOVE ME!

HOWEVER, THOUGH HE HAD OFTEN SPENT TIME IMPRISONED WITHIN THESE WALLS...

LADY C--

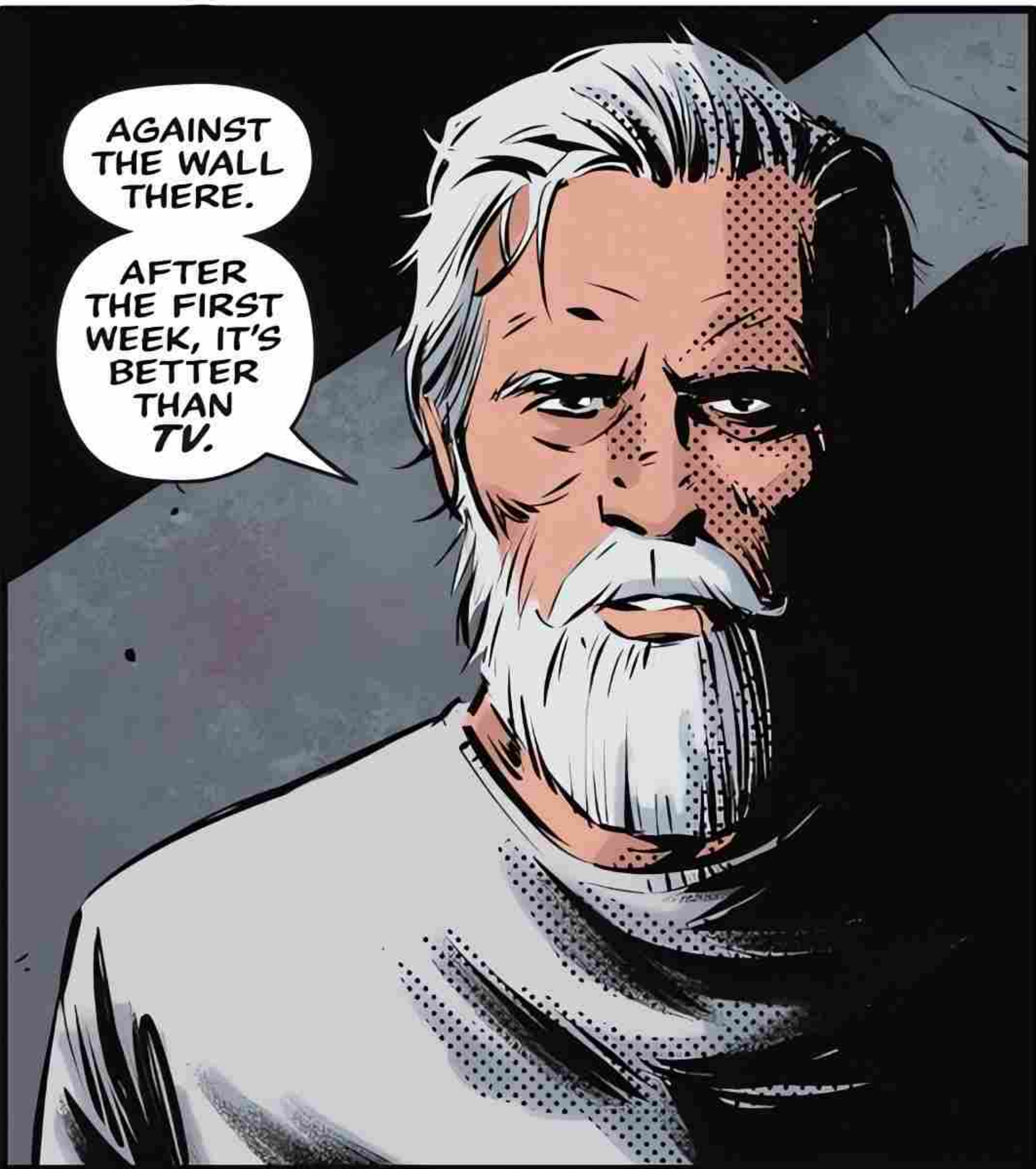
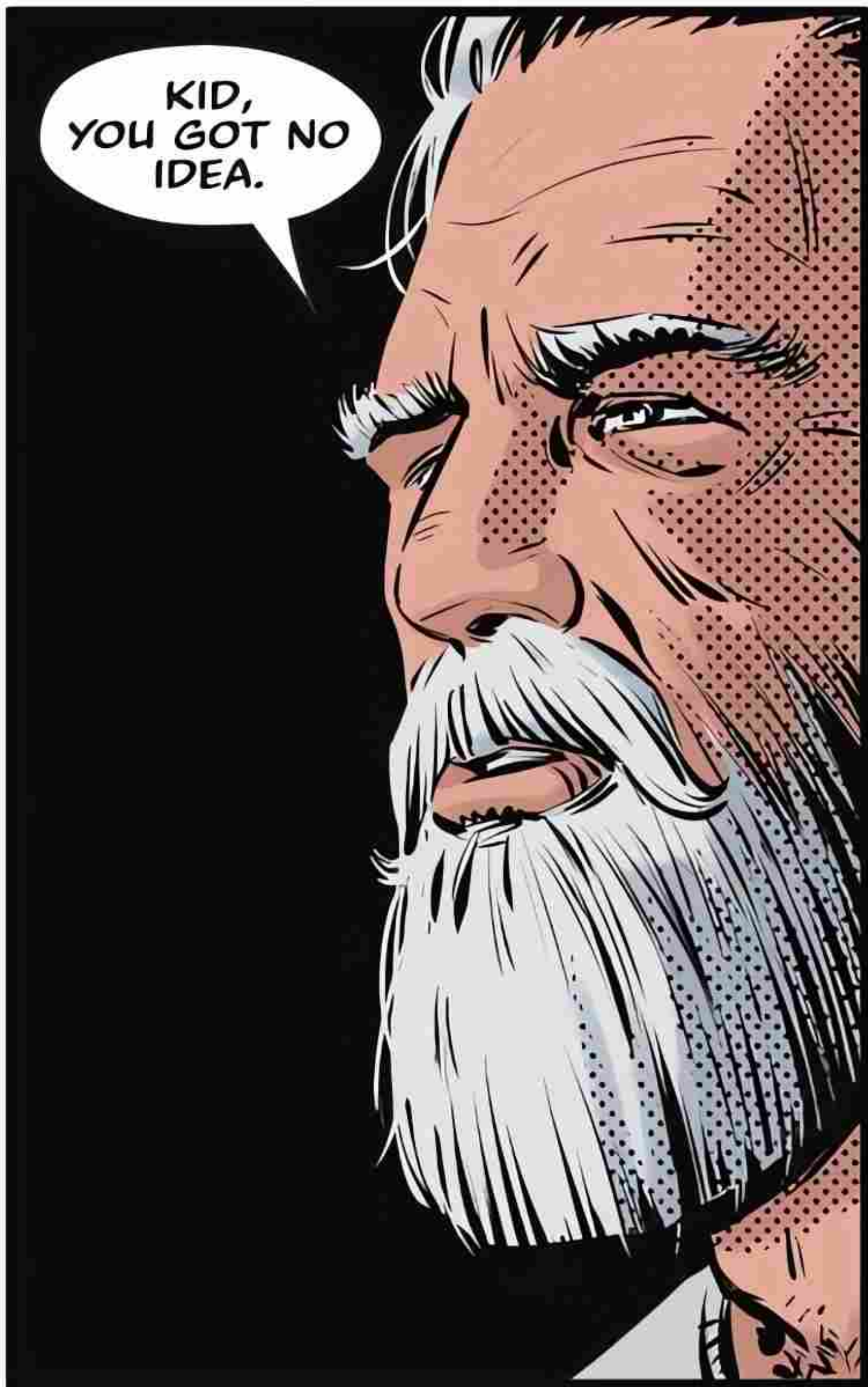
CHIEF WARNER, AS I'VE SAID, ISN'T HERE. I AM IN CHARGE. I AM THE CHIEF.

THIS IS YOUR CELL. GET USED TO IT.

...HE HAD NEVER BEFORE BEEN TRAPPED THERE WITH AN ACTUAL PRINCE.

YOU'RE GOING TO GET USED TO A FOOT IN YOUR Ø∞Σ PRETTY SOON!

NOT EVEN MINE. HERS. I HEARD YOU SAY IT AGAIN, YOU LITTLE @#z\$!



UNAWARE OF THE GREAT MEETING AT HER CASTLE, THE PRINCESS CONTINUED HER EFFORTS TO ENTER THE CAVE OF THE MONSTERS...



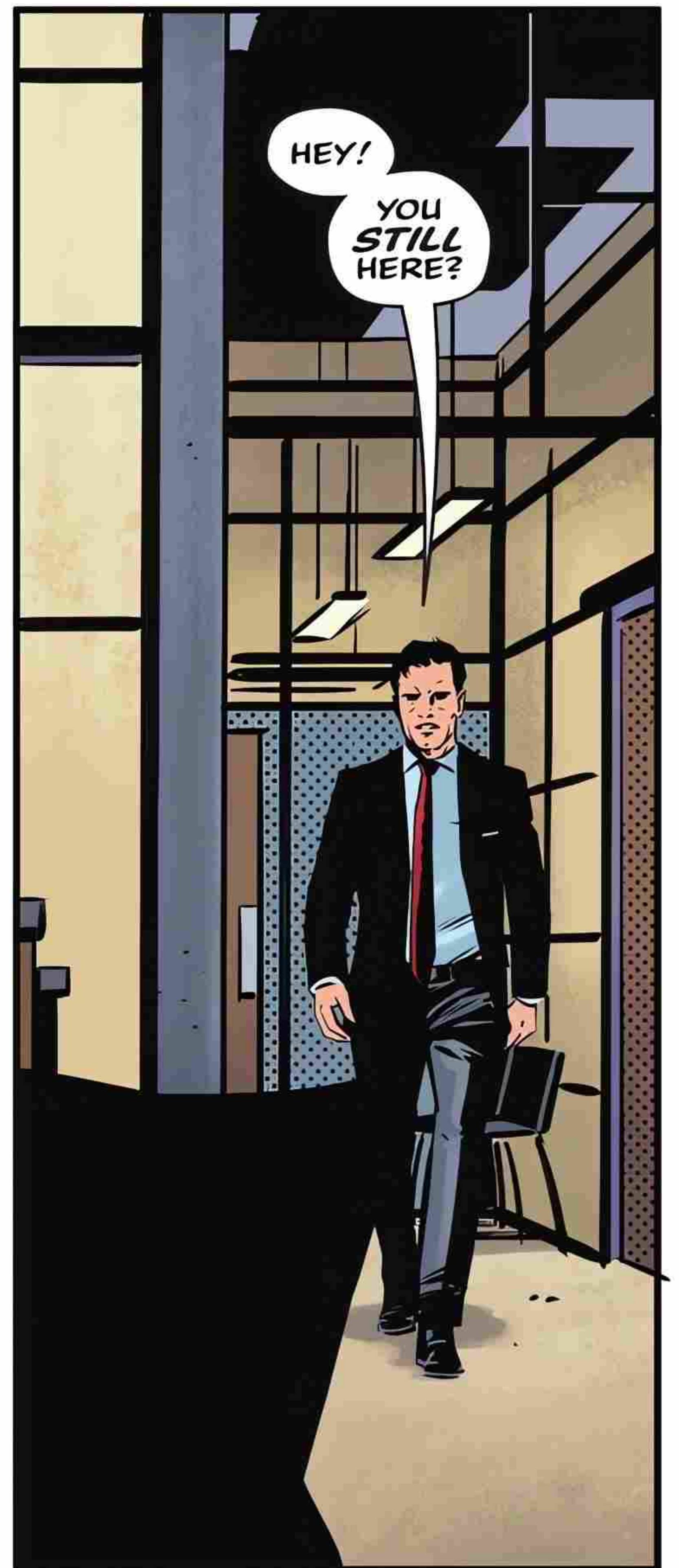
...ONLY TO FIND AN OGRE EMERGING FROM THE VERY CHAMBER SHE SOUGHT TO CONQUER.



THANK YOU *SO* MUCH, **COMMODORE**. I ALWAYS KNOW YOU'LL COME THROUGH.

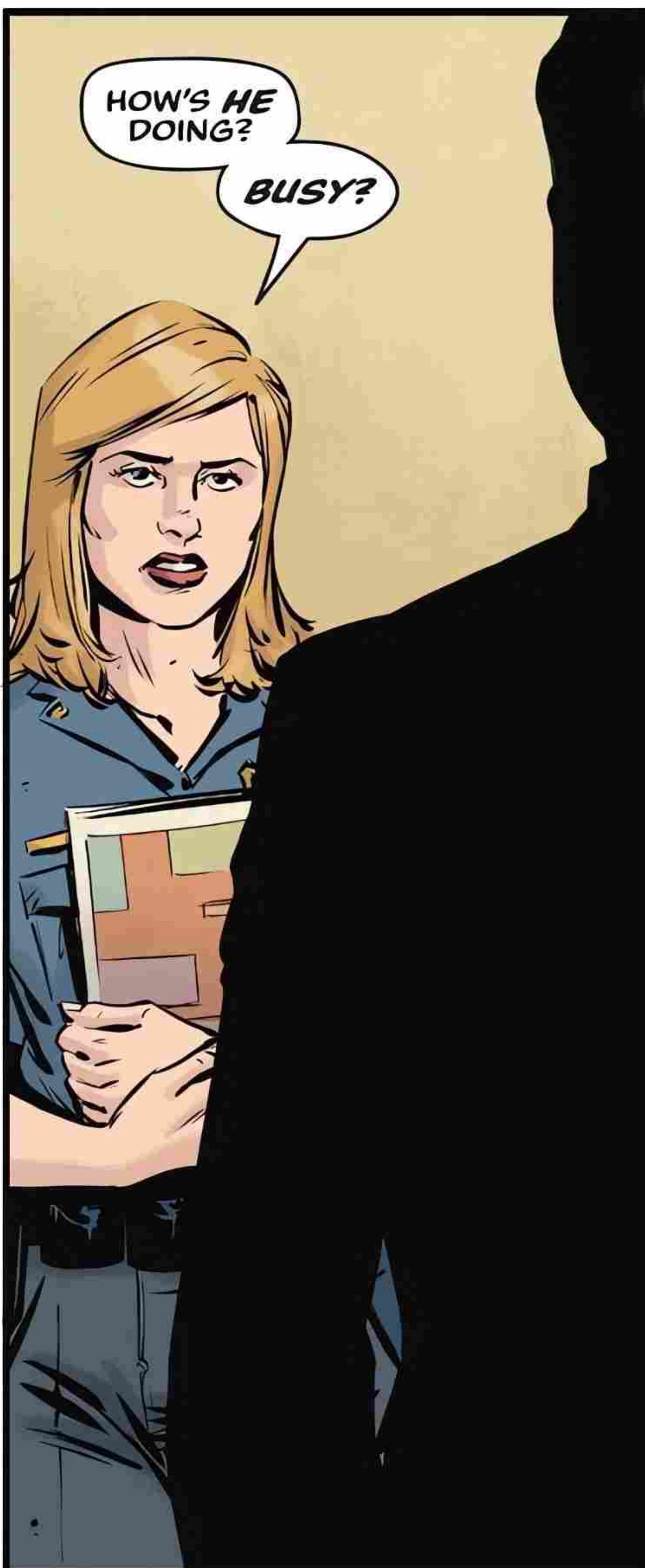
IT'S *SUCH* A PLEASURE HAVING YOU HERE IN THESE TYPES OF SITUATIONS.

IT'S GOING TO BE A **GREAT** SHOW.



HEY!

YOU **STILL** HERE?



HOW'S **HE** DOING?

BUSY?



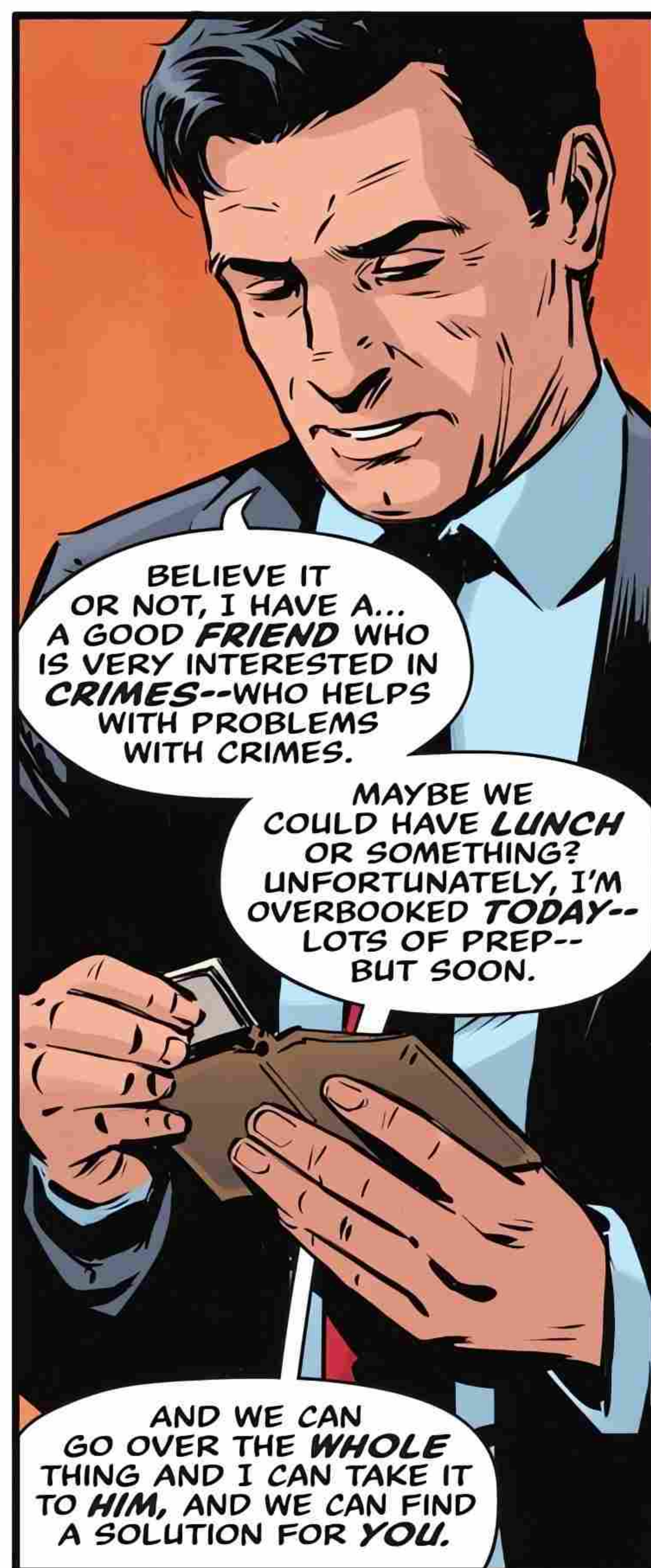
YEAH, TOO MUCH, Y'KNOW?

I MEAN, THIS IS AN EMPIRE, **GT.** GOES ALL AROUND THE WORLD. AND THE **COMMODORE'S** RUNNING IT **ALONE** NOW.

HE USED TO HAVE **HELP**. NOW IT'S, UH, IT'S A LOT.

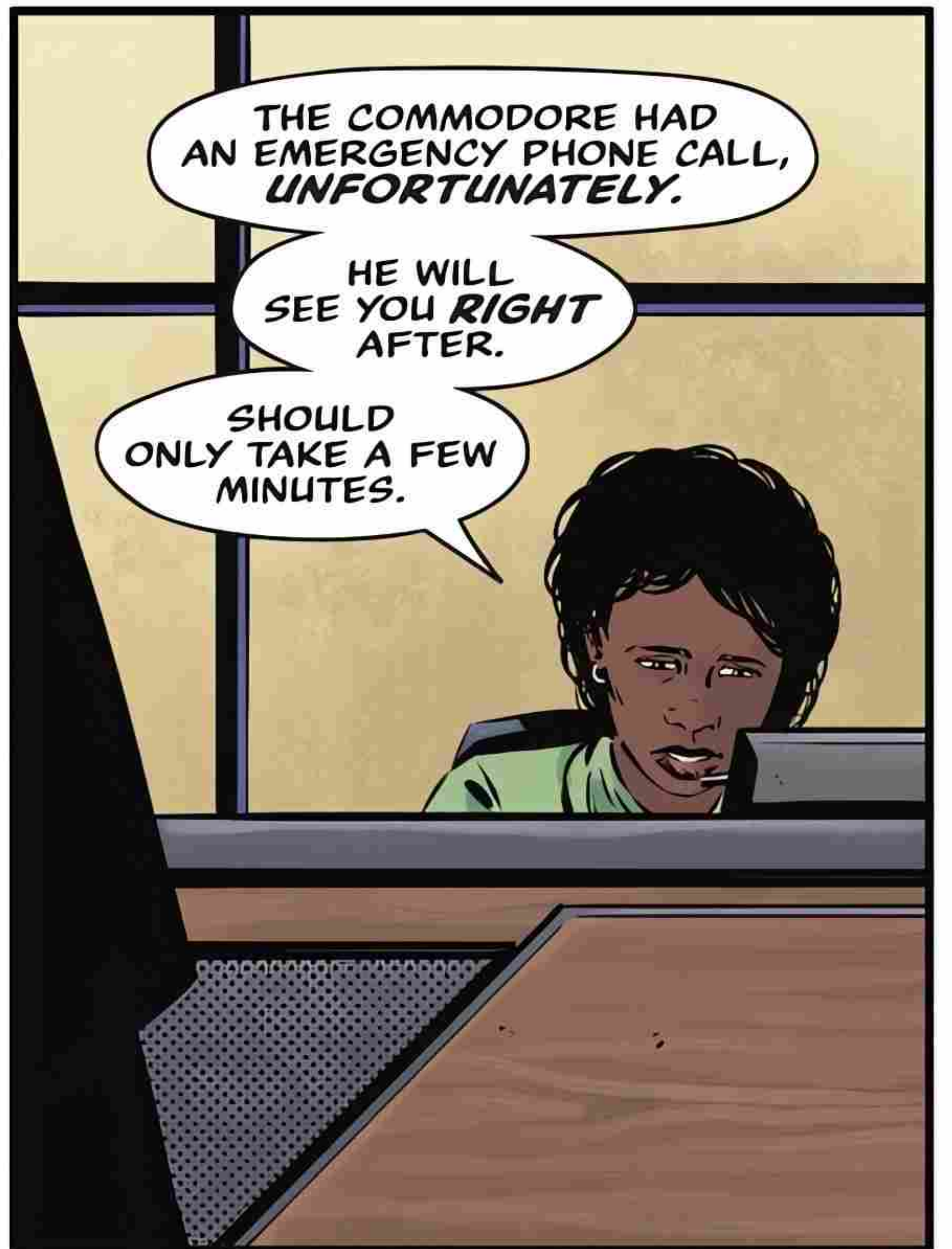


WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS **HELP**?





DOES--



THE COMMODORE HAD AN EMERGENCY PHONE CALL, UNFORTUNATELY.

HE WILL SEE YOU *RIGHT* AFTER.

SHOULD ONLY TAKE A FEW MINUTES.



I BET.



JACK RYDER.

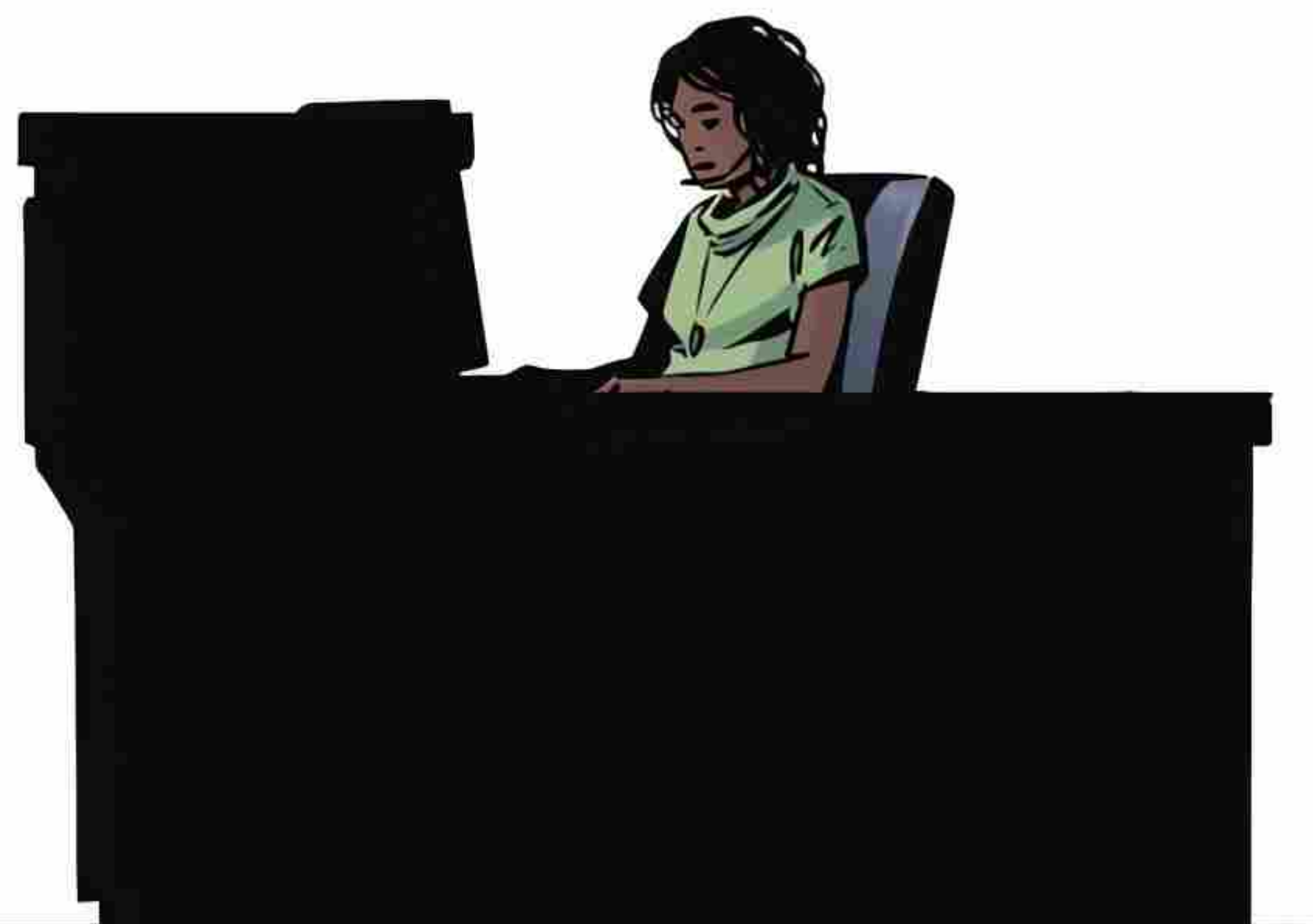
I THINK I RECOGNIZE THE NAME. HE'S ON THE NEWS, RIGHT?

I THINK MY *DAD* WATCHES HIM.

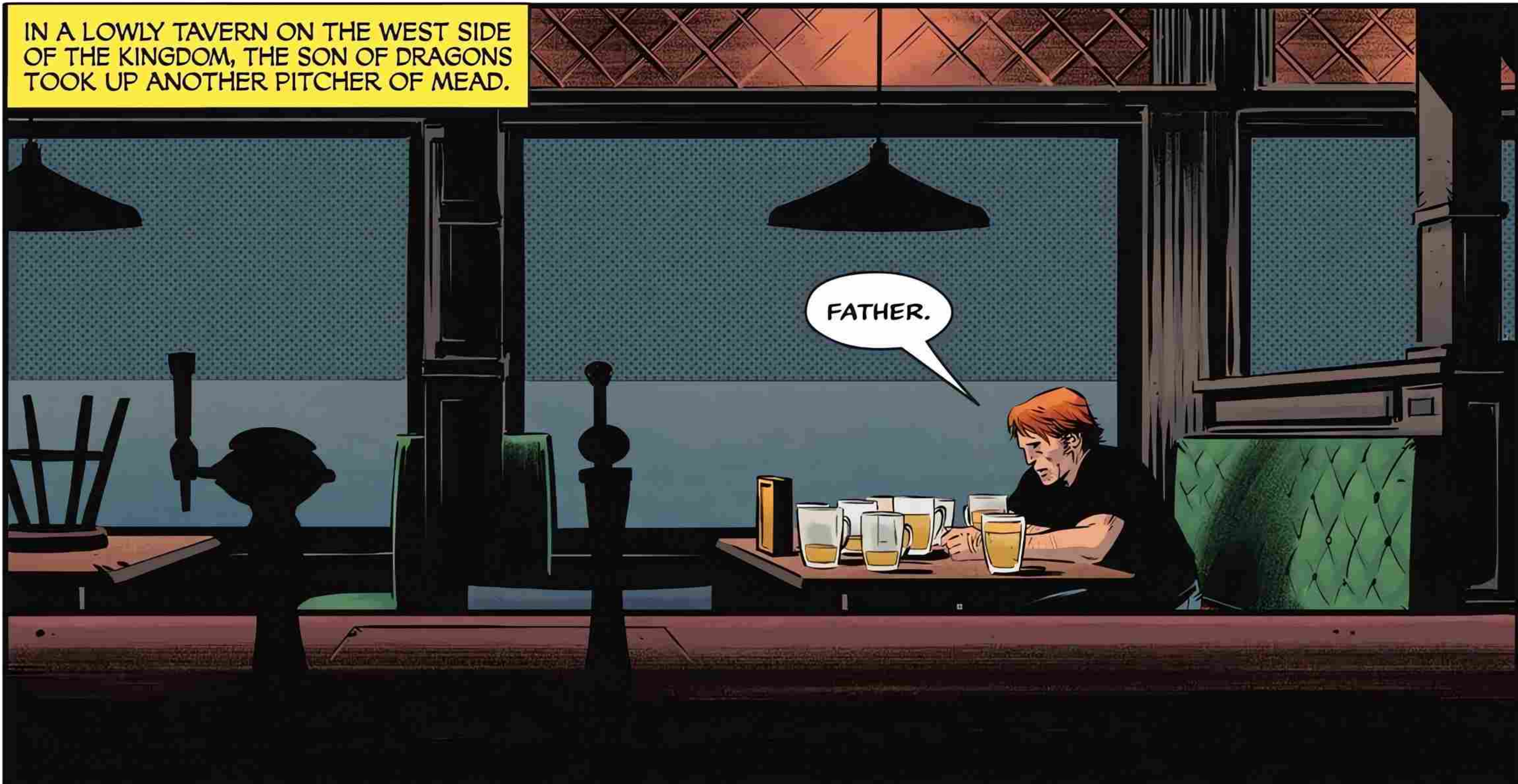
I HAVE A *STACK* OF WORK TO DO, HON.

SHOULD BE JUST A *FEW* MINUTES.

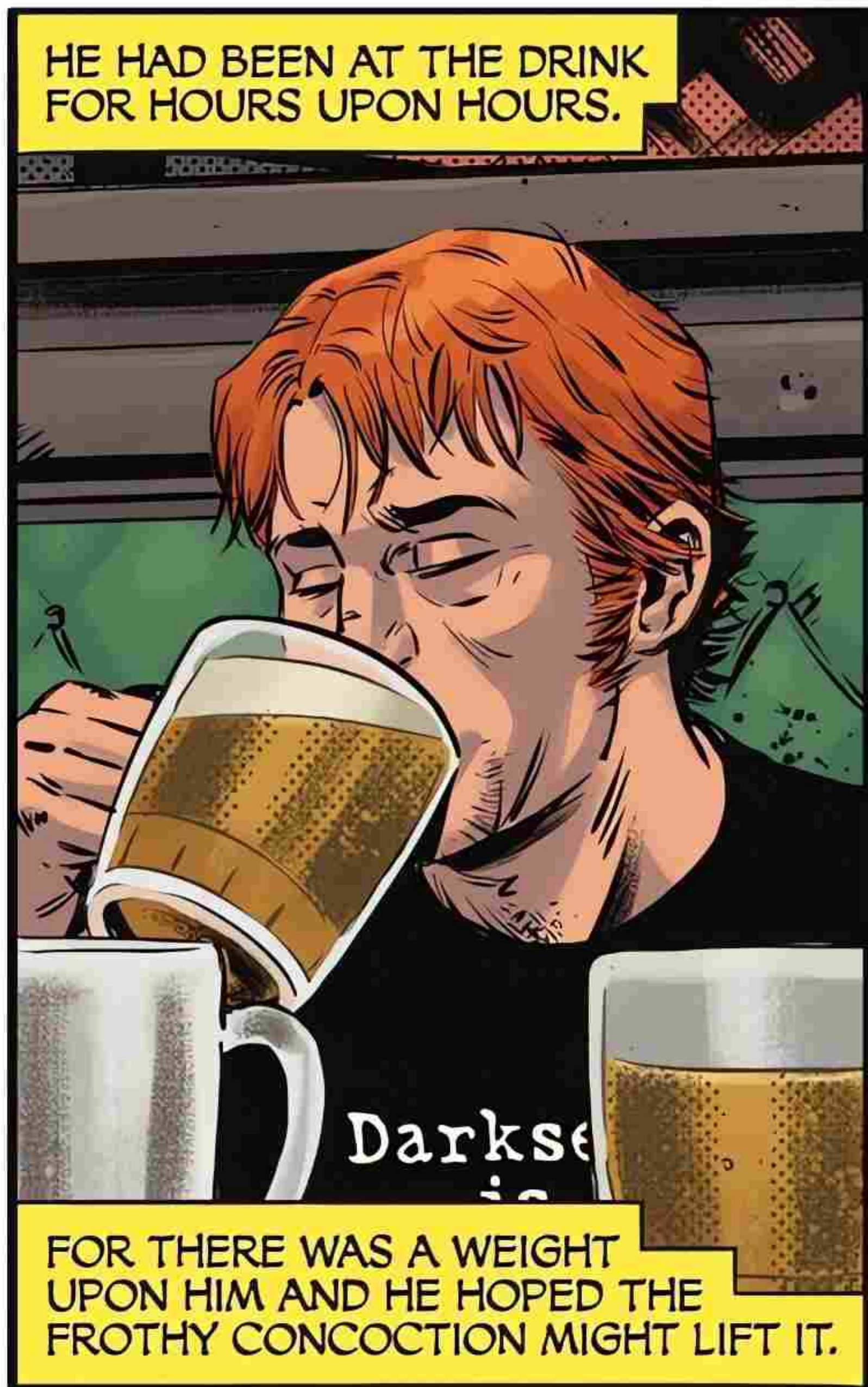
LET ME KNOW IF YOU'D LIKE COFFEE OR TEA. WE ALSO HAVE SODA OR WATER.



IN A LOWLY TAVERN ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE KINGDOM, THE SON OF DRAGONS TOOK UP ANOTHER PITCHER OF MEAD.



HE HAD BEEN AT THE DRINK FOR HOURS UPON HOURS.



FOR THERE WAS A WEIGHT UPON HIM AND HE HOPED THE FROTHY CONCOCTION MIGHT LIFT IT.

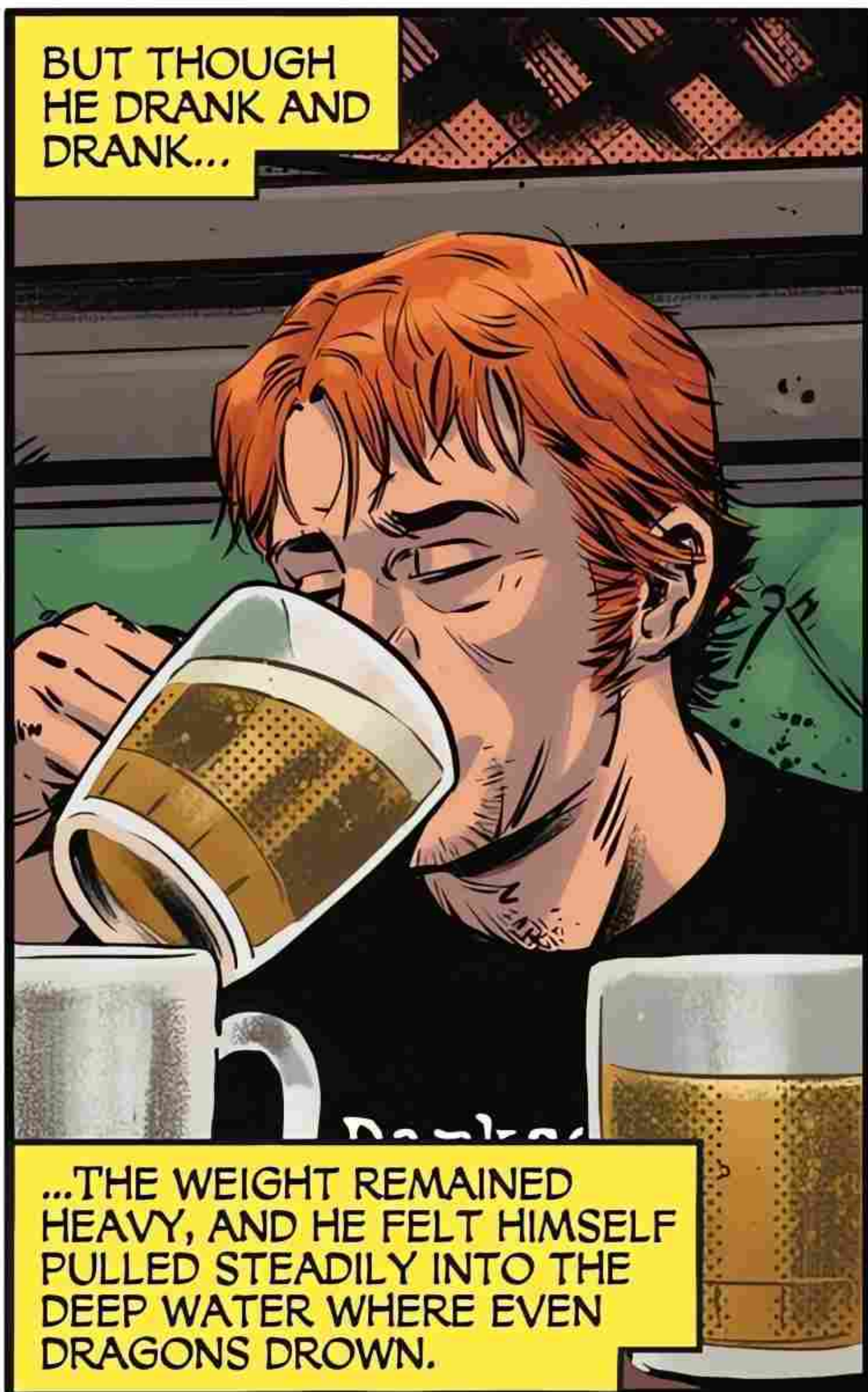
I HAVE
FAILED
YOU.

I WAS...
INJURED.



BY THE TIME I'D RECOVERED ENOUGH TO SEARCH, THERE WAS NO LONGER A TRACE OF ATLAS ANYWHERE ON THIS **WRETCHED** PLANET.

BUT THOUGH HE DRANK AND DRANK...



...THE WEIGHT REMAINED HEAVY, AND HE FELT HIMSELF PULLED STEADILY INTO THE DEEP WATER WHERE EVEN DRAGONS DROWN.

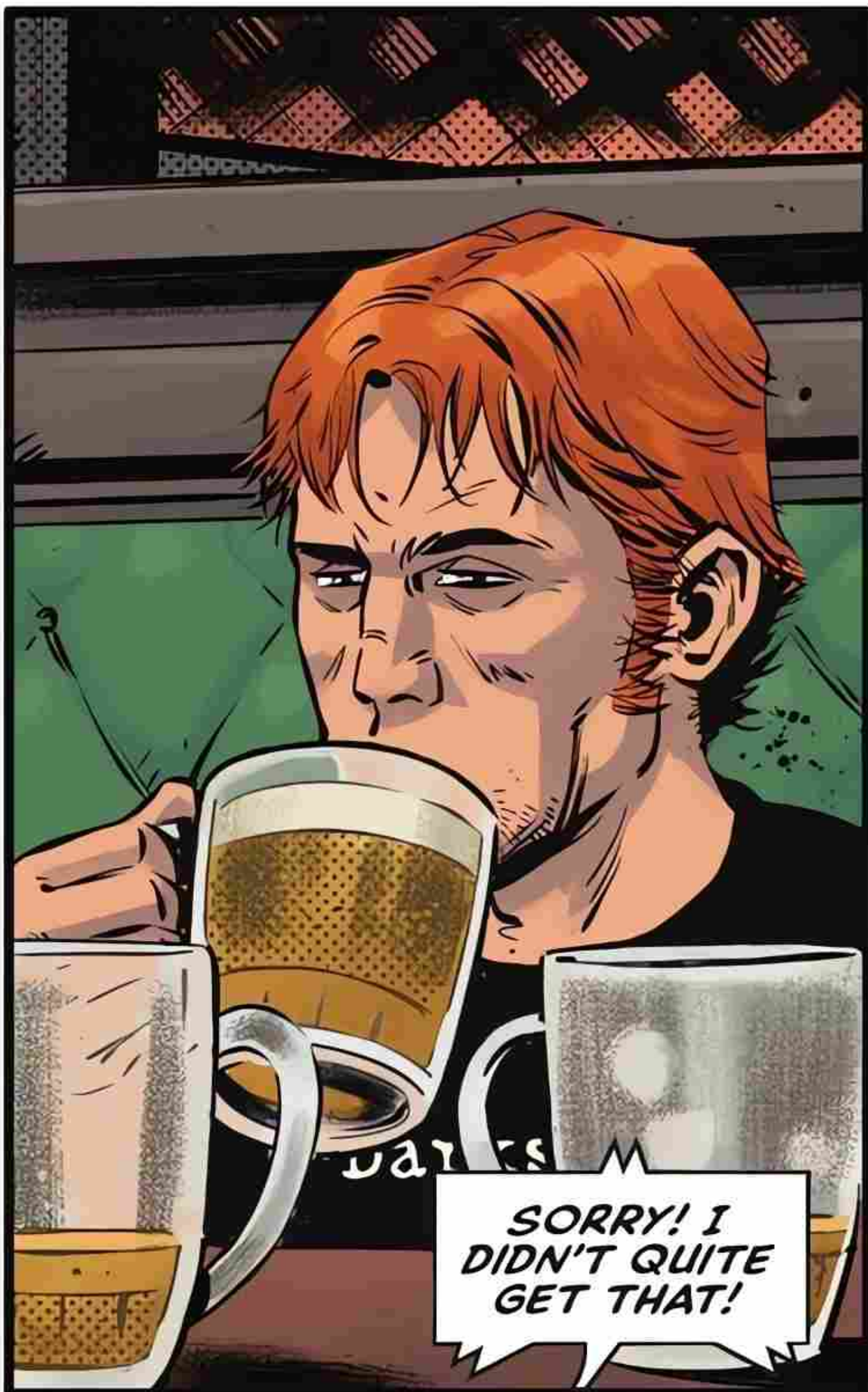
I EVEN TOOK BACK THE BODY IN WHICH IT HAD ONCE BEEN HIDDEN, BUT COULD FIND **NOTHING** IN IT.



THE HUMAN CHILD IS **BURIED** IN THE DESERT NOW, BY MY OWN HAND.

WHERE HE **ROTS.**

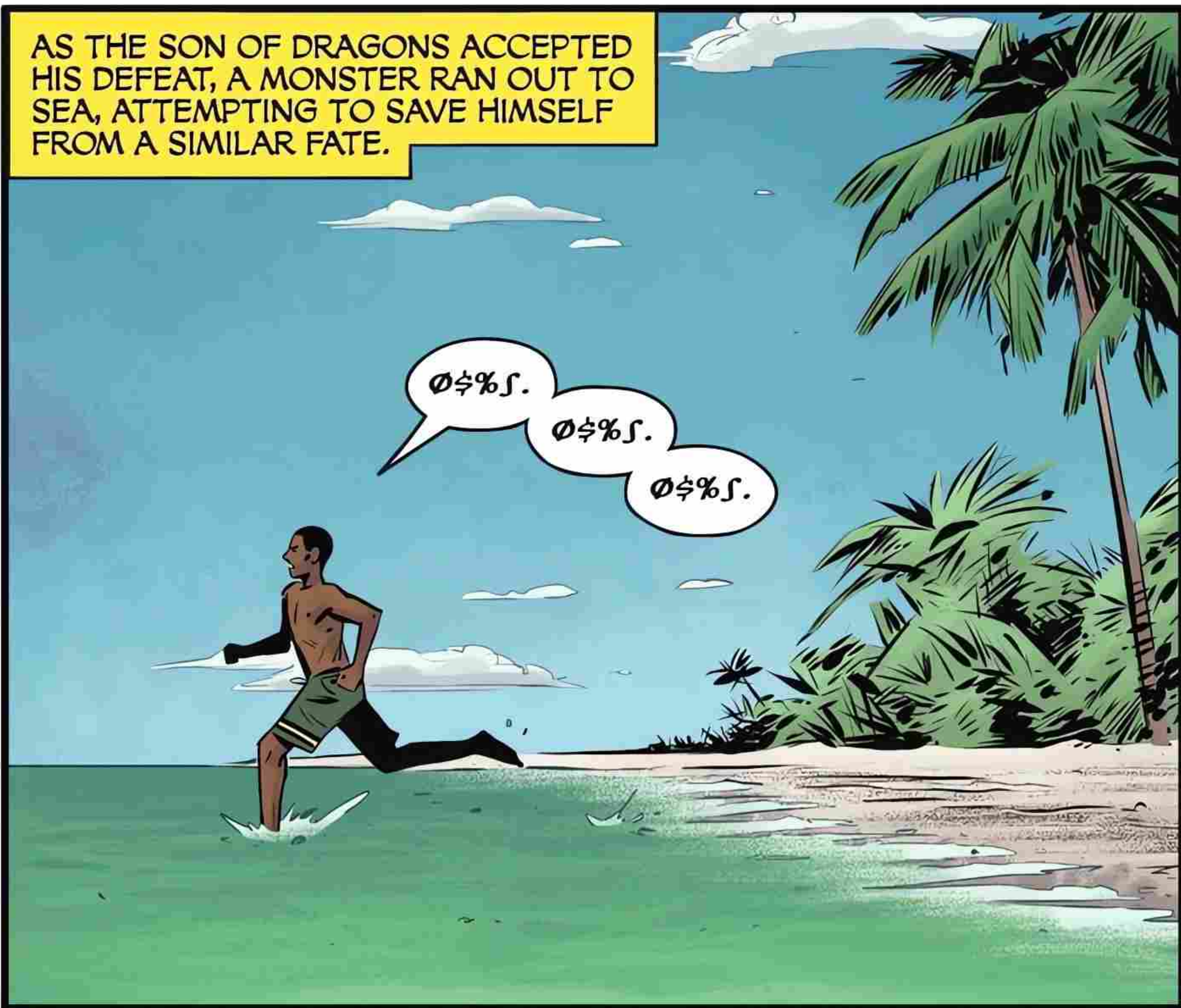
AS WE **ALL** SHALL SOON ROT.



SORRY! I DIDN'T QUITE GET THAT!



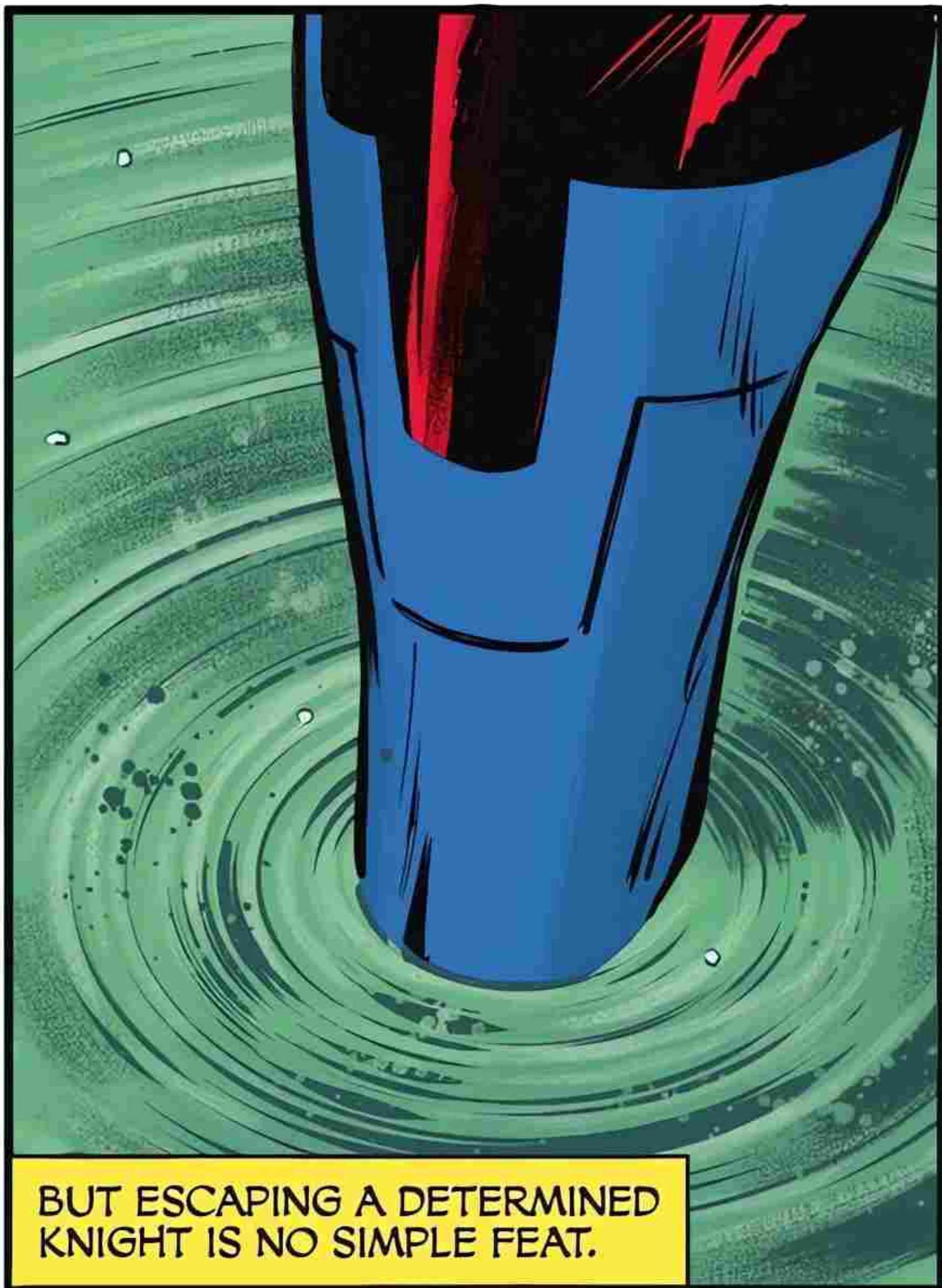
AS THE SON OF DRAGONS ACCEPTED HIS DEFEAT, A MONSTER RAN OUT TO SEA, ATTEMPTING TO SAVE HIMSELF FROM A SIMILAR FATE.



0\$%J.

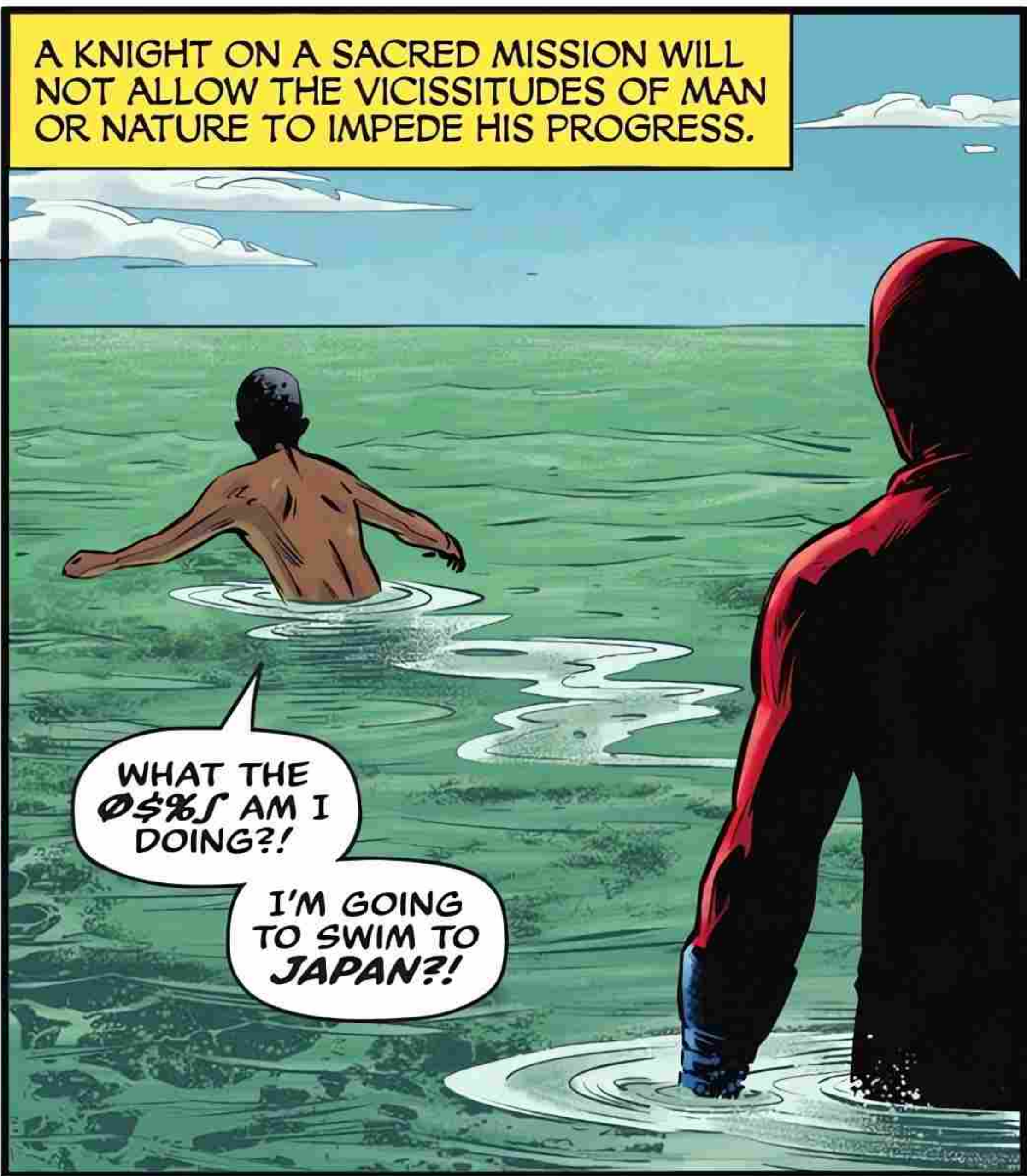
0\$%J.

0\$%J.



BUT ESCAPING A DETERMINED KNIGHT IS NO SIMPLE FEAT.

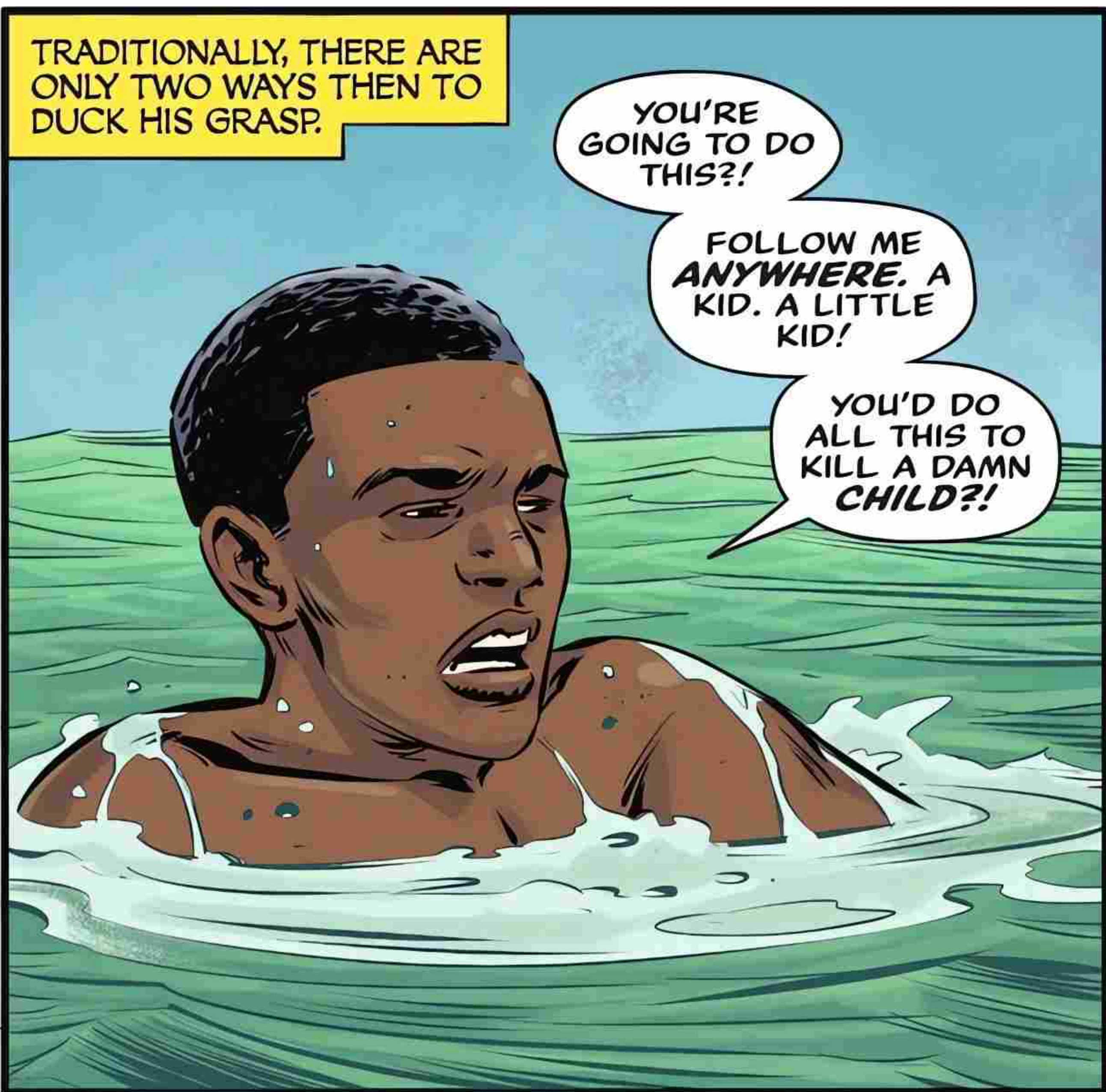
A KNIGHT ON A SACRED MISSION WILL NOT ALLOW THE VICISSITUDES OF MAN OR NATURE TO IMPEDE HIS PROGRESS.



WHAT THE 0\$%J AM I DOING?!

I'M GOING TO SWIM TO JAPAN?!

TRADITIONALLY, THERE ARE ONLY TWO WAYS THEN TO DUCK HIS GRASP.



YOU'RE GOING TO DO THIS?!

FOLLOW ME ANYWHERE. A KID. A LITTLE KID!

YOU'D DO ALL THIS TO KILL A DAMN CHILD?!

FIRST AND EASIEST, ONE MAY RETREAT INTO DEATH.



YES.

SECOND, AND INFINITELY MORE COMPLICATED...



AH, COOL. THAT'S PERFECT, THEN. THANKS.

'CAUSE WE'VE ACTUALLY BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.

...ONE MAY SEEK THE AID OF WARRIORS
OF EQUAL OR GREATER STRENGTH.

FOR INSTANCE, AS IN THIS INSTANCE,
ONE MIGHT RELY ON THE VIGOR AND
FORTITUDE OF OUR DISTINGUISHED
YET REBELLIOUS ROGUES.

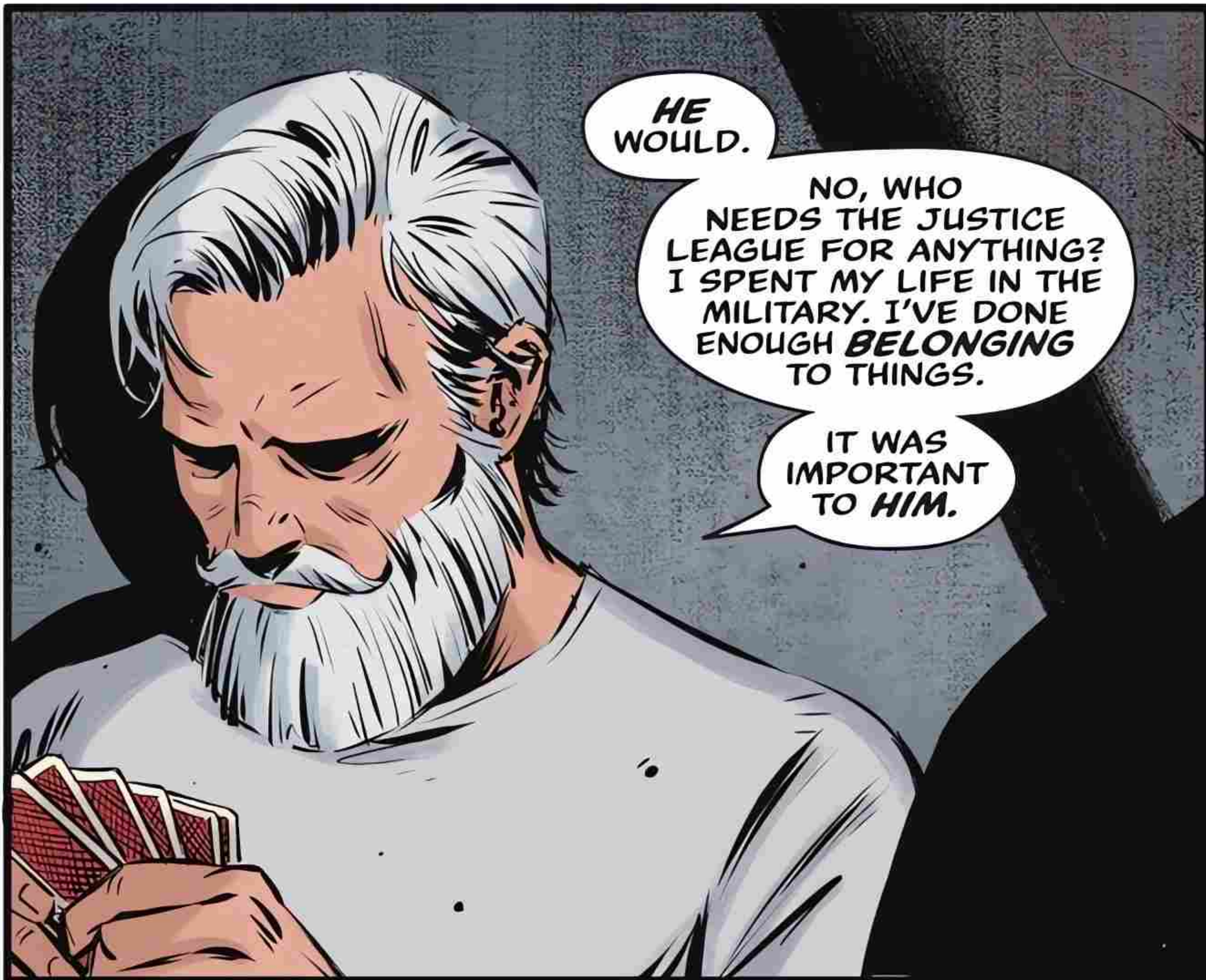
YOU'RE *JUST*
THE RIGHT DUDE TO
HELP US WITH THE
COMMODORE.



MILES FROM THIS ERUPTION OF VIOLENCE, OUR LAD, WHO HAD A BIT OF A ROGUE'S COUNTENANCE TO HIM, FOUND HIMSELF ENJOYING HIS FIRST TIME IN THE COMPANY OF A PRINCE.



HE SAID IT WAS YOUR IDEA.



HE WOULD.

NO, WHO NEEDS THE JUSTICE LEAGUE FOR ANYTHING? I SPENT MY LIFE IN THE MILITARY. I'VE DONE ENOUGH **BELONGING** TO THINGS.

IT WAS IMPORTANT TO HIM.



NOT THE WAY HE TELLS IT.

STAR IS ALWAYS TRYING TO **PROVE** HIMSELF. THAT HE FITS IN. 'CAUSE HE'S FROM SOMEWHERE ELSE AND... HE'S NOT **LIKE** EVERYONE ELSE HERE.

SO HE **WANTS** TO BE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. JOIN THE PLACES THAT SORT OF MARK YOU AS ON THE INSIDE OR WHATEVER. NORMAL.



I'M FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE COUNTRY, JUST THE SAME AS **ANYONE**. I'D RATHER BREAK FREE.

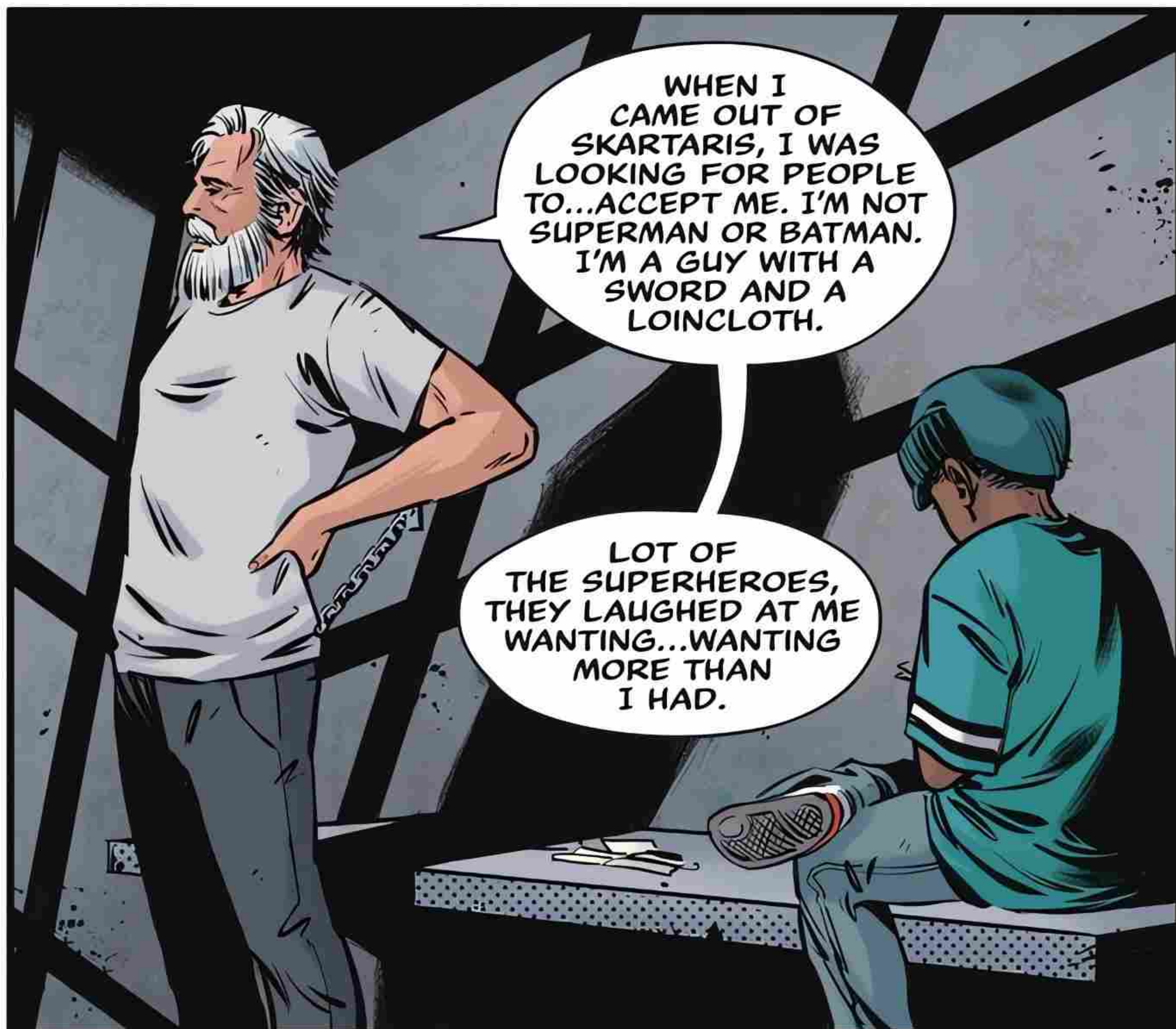
SO YOU DO ALL THIS @#%\$ JUST TO MAKE THAT DUDE HAPPY?

YOU DON'T EVEN **WANT** TO BE IN THE LEAGUE?

I LIKE **HIS** STORY BETTER. LEAST IT MADE SENSE.



GIN.



NOT EVERY MISSION, EVEN THOSE UNDERTAKEN IN TIMES OF STRIFE FOR REASONS OF NOBILITY AND LOVE, CAN COME TO A FRUITION.

I'M SORRY, MISS. IT'S **EIGHT**, AND I HAVE TO GET HOME TO MY HUSBAND.

WE'LL HAVE TO CLOSE THE OFFICE FOR THE NIGHT.

AS OUR PRINCESS DISCOVERED WHEN SHE WAS UNABLE TO NAVIGATE HER WAY THROUGH THE LABYRINTH OF THAT VILLAINOUS CAVE AND INTO THE MONSTER'S DEN.

THAT'S IT?

BUT DO NOT LOSE FAITH IN OUR GOOD LADY!

AS EVERY HEROINE EVENTUALLY LEARNS, TRUE COURAGE IS FORGED FROM LOSS.

ON A TRUE QUEST, PAIN IS BUT A STEPPING STONE TO GLORY.

YES.

I'D BE HAPPY TO **RESCHEDULE** you. AS I THINK I MENTIONED BEFORE, HE HAS AN OPENING IN SEVEN WEEKS. A TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

IF **THAT** WORKS FOR YOU, I CAN AT LEAST PENCIL YOU IN NOW.

THIS WAS ALL DONE WITH THE **LAWYERS**-- DOES HE WANT THIS TO GO TO THE NEXT LEVEL?

THERE ARE **SUBPOENAS** AND **WARRANTS** AND...AND...IS HE IN THERE RIGHT NOW?

WITH HIS SECURITY MAN.

WHO IS **MIGHTY** UNKIND TO INTERRUPTERS.

AND THOUGH SHE WAS TIRED AND BATTERED...

JESUS CHRIST! I'M TRYING!
WHAT THE **HELL** AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?!

...OUR PRINCESS CONCEDED NOTHING AND WENT ON. AND ON.

I'LL WALK YOU DOWN.

YOU'LL NEED A **GT KEY FOB** TO GET OUT TO THE STREET AT THIS HOUR.



HOW DO YOU DO IT?

SIT THERE **EVERY** DAY, WORKING FOR THAT...



WELL. HE KIDNAPPED MY SON, **HENRY**.

HOLDS HIM I DON'T KNOW WHERE. I GET **PICTURES** FROM TIME TO TIME.

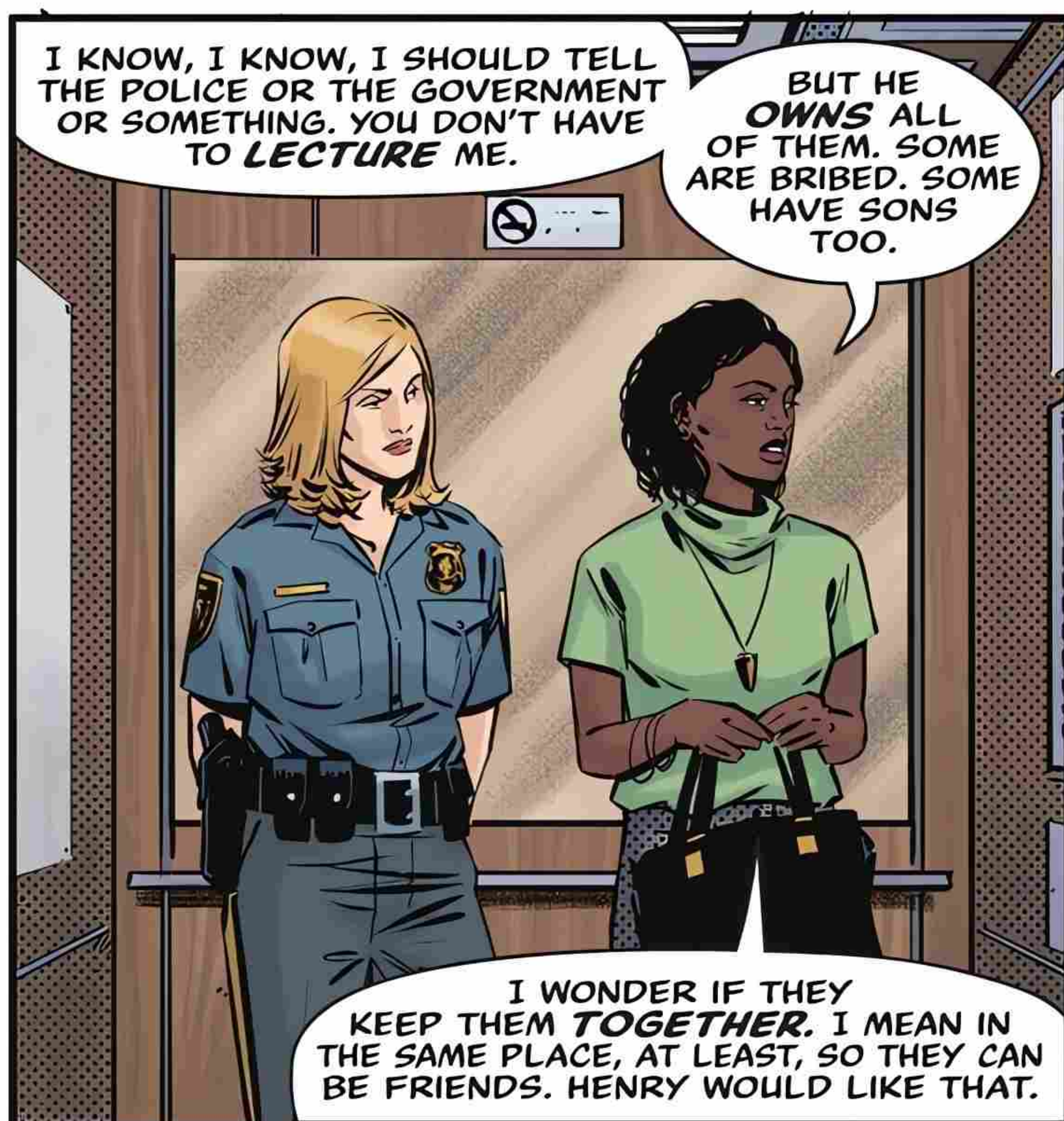
SOMETIMES I'LL GET A FINGER OR A TOE, Y'KNOW, WHEN I DON'T DO SOMETHING RIGHT AND HE'S **DISAPPOINTED** IN MY PERFORMANCE.



IF I TELL ANYONE ABOUT ALL THE HORRIBLE THINGS I'VE SEEN HIM DO, HE SAYS I'LL START GETTING THE **EYES** NEXT.

AND IF I QUIT, I'LL JUST GET THE WHOLE **BODY** IN PIECES.

THOUGH HE'D PROBABLY **KILL** ME AND MY FAMILY FIRST, SO I GUESS **NO ONE** WOULD BE LEFT TO GET IT REALLY.



I KNOW, I KNOW, I SHOULD TELL THE POLICE OR THE GOVERNMENT OR SOMETHING. YOU DON'T HAVE TO **LECTURE** ME.

BUT HE **OWNS** ALL OF THEM. SOME ARE BRIBED. SOME HAVE SONS TOO.

I WONDER IF THEY KEEP THEM **TOGETHER**. I MEAN IN THE SAME PLACE, AT LEAST, SO THEY CAN BE FRIENDS. **HENRY** WOULD LIKE THAT.



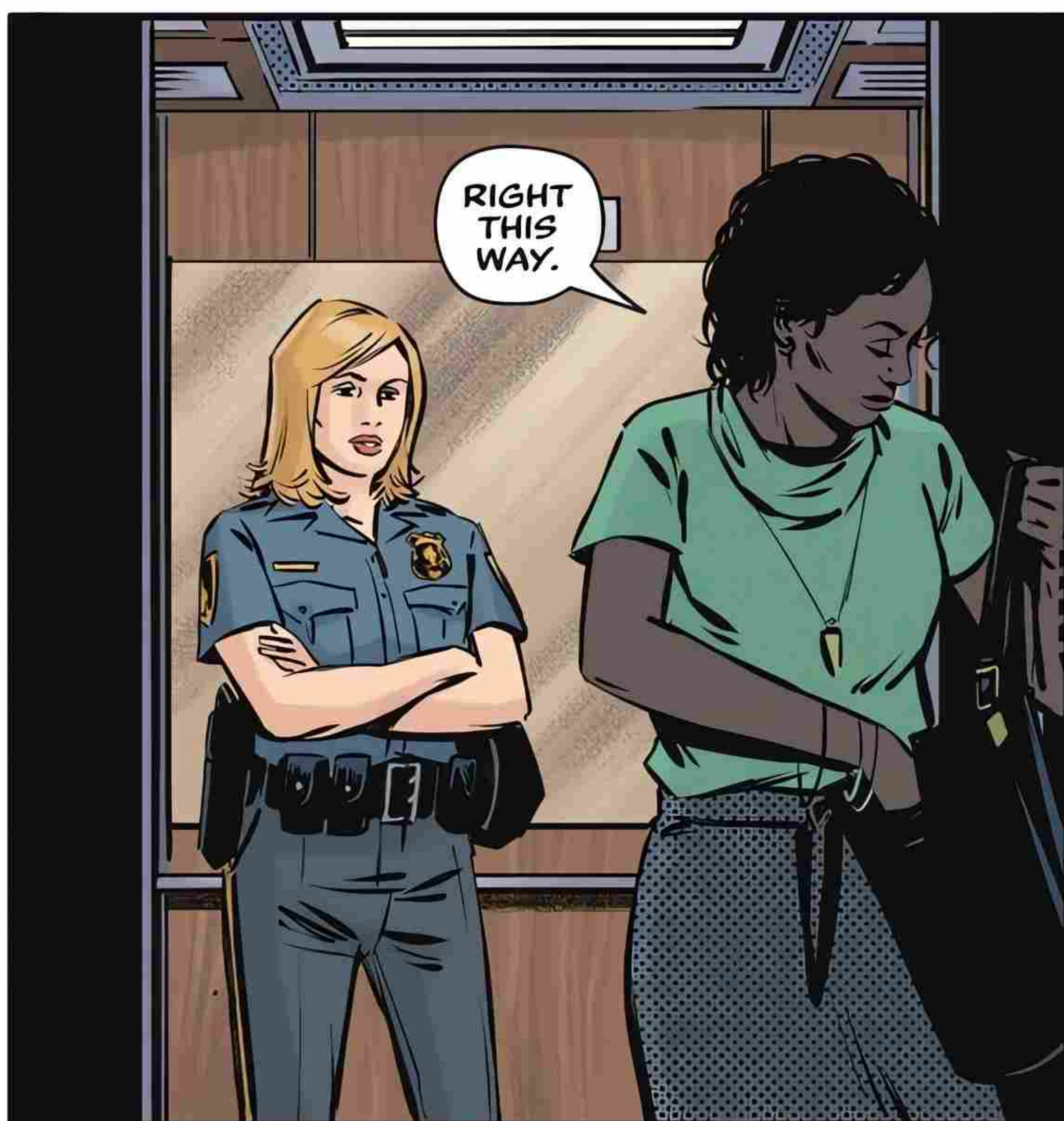
ARE YOU--

DING

HERE WE ARE. THE LOBBY.

THE FRONT IS **NOT** OPEN. JUST FOLLOW ME AND I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE SIDE DOOR AND LET YOU OUT.

I'M PARKED IN THE GARAGE.



RIGHT THIS WAY.

NOT BUT A SPARROW'S HOP AWAY,
THE OGRE WAS STARING INTO THE
NIGHT WHEN HE HEARD A FAR-
OFF CRY FOR HELP.



"HELLO."



"YES, THIS IS CHIEF
WARNER. WE MET
EARLIER TODAY IN THE
COMMODORE'S OFFICE."



"OF COURSE! I'M SO GLAD
YOU CALLED. I HOPE
EVERYTHING WORKED OUT
WITH YOUR MEETING."



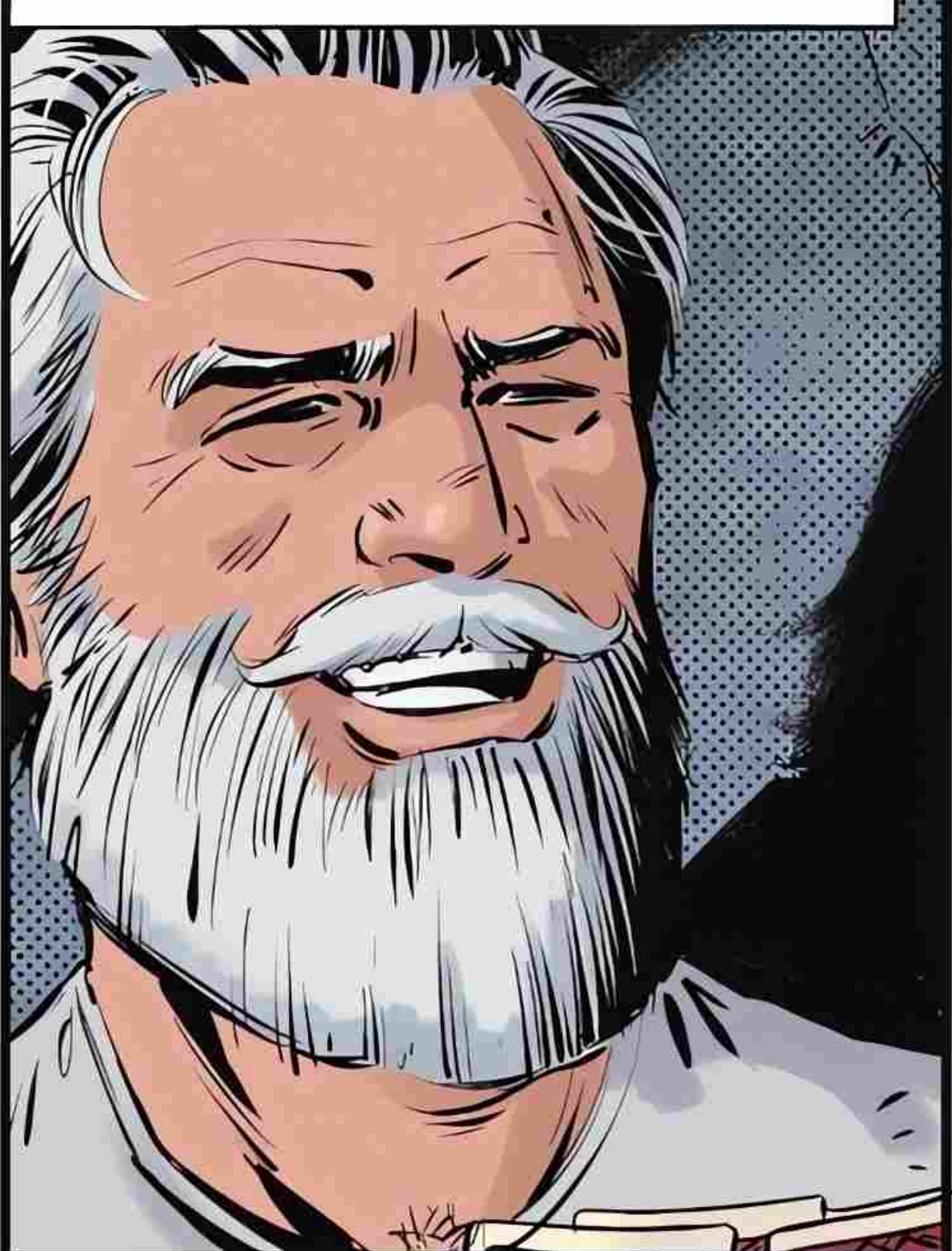
"IT WENT AS WELL
AS IT COULD GO,
I GUESS."



"HAHA. I UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT
MEANS. I THINK I'VE BEEN IN THAT
MEETING A FEW TIMES MYSELF. IS
THERE **ANYTHING** I CAN HELP
YOU WITH, CHIEF?"



"YOU SAID YOU WOULD BE--THAT
YOU'D MEET WITH ME TO DISCUSS
WHAT'S HAPPENED. I WOULD LIKE
TO TALK TO SOMEONE IN GT.
SINCE I'M IN THE CITY."



"SOUNDS GREAT--LET'S SET
SOMETHING UP FOR SOONER
RATHER THAN LATER.
WHATEVER IT IS, I JUST
WOULD LIKE TO HELP."

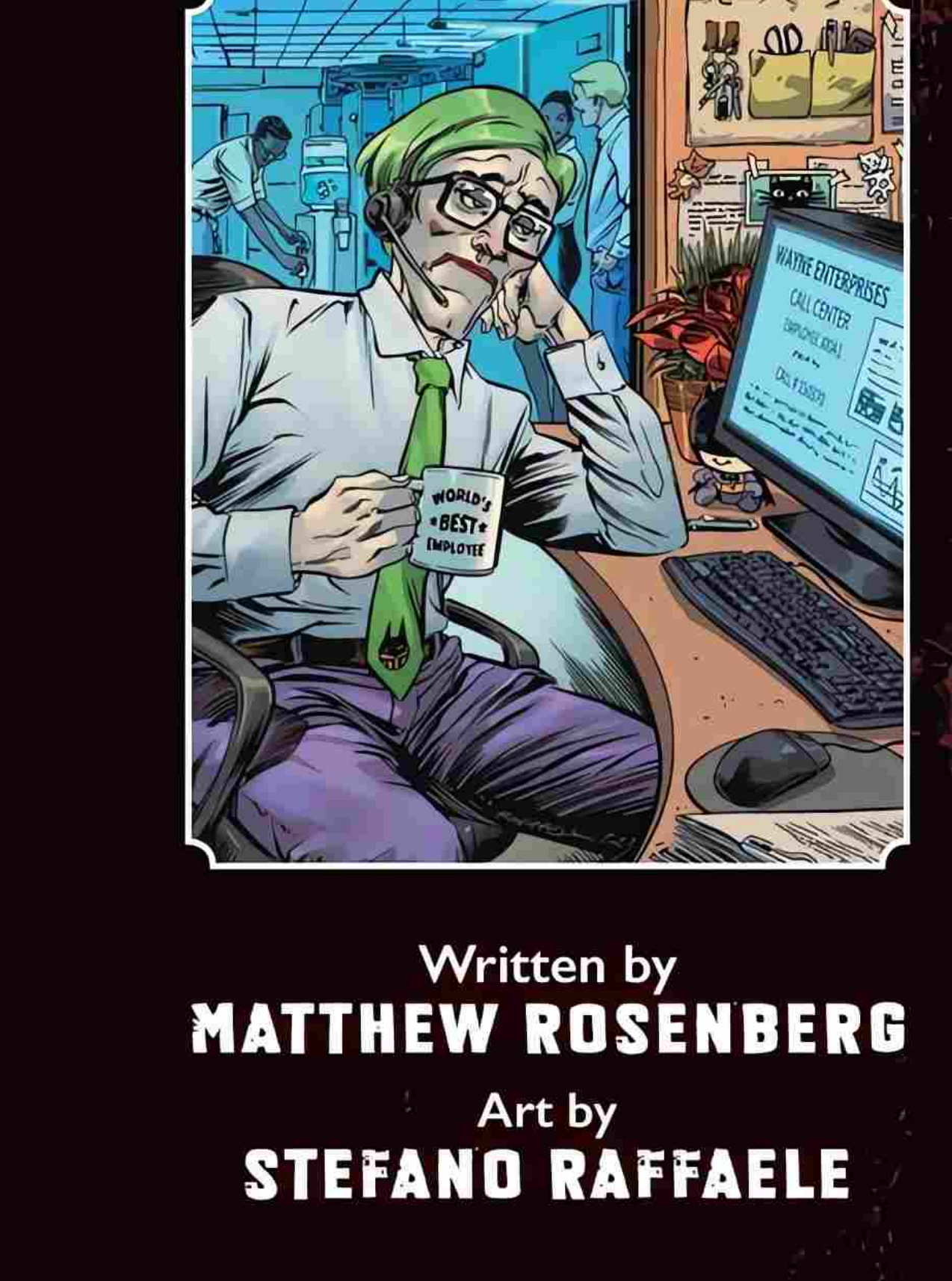
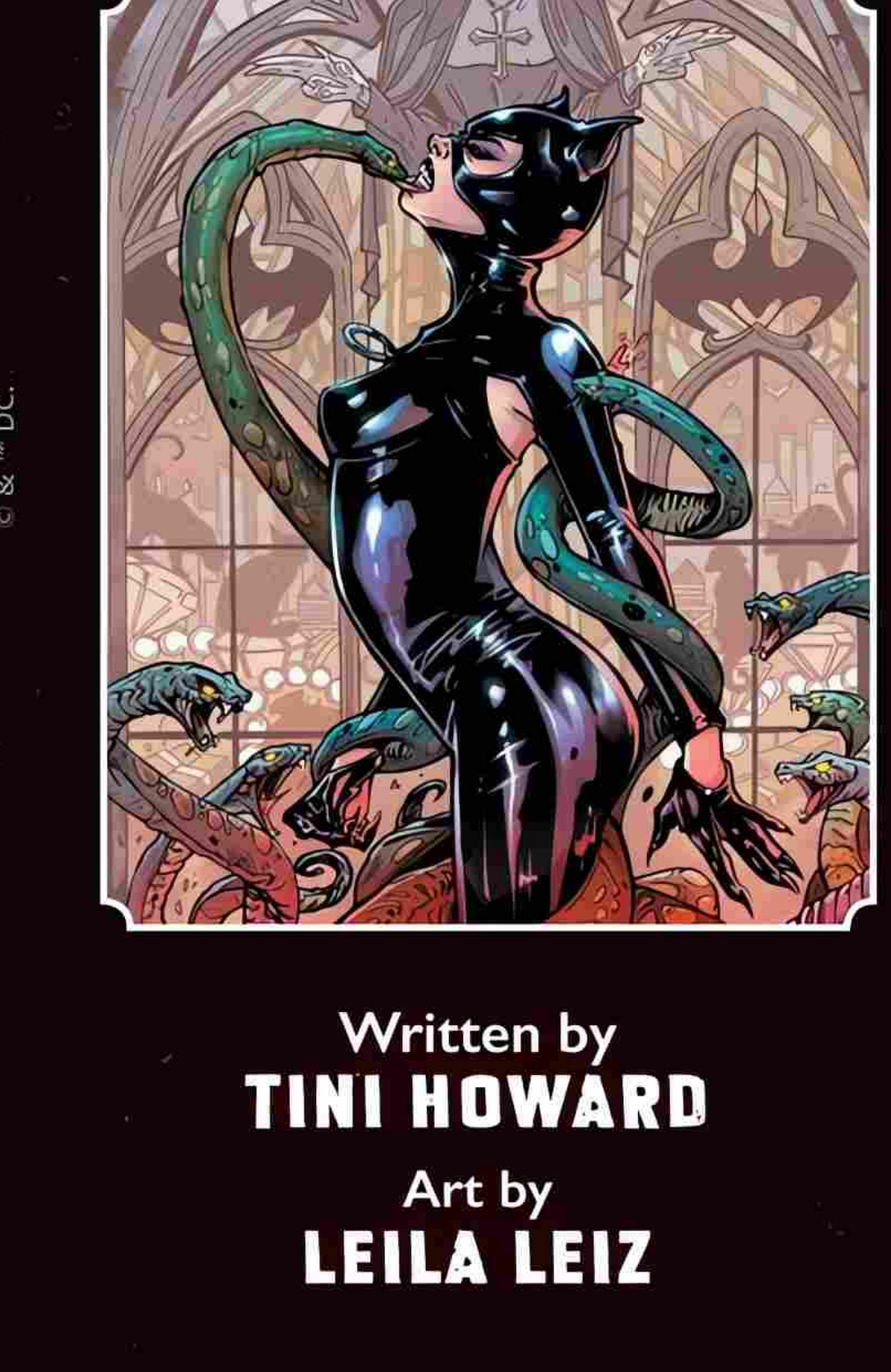
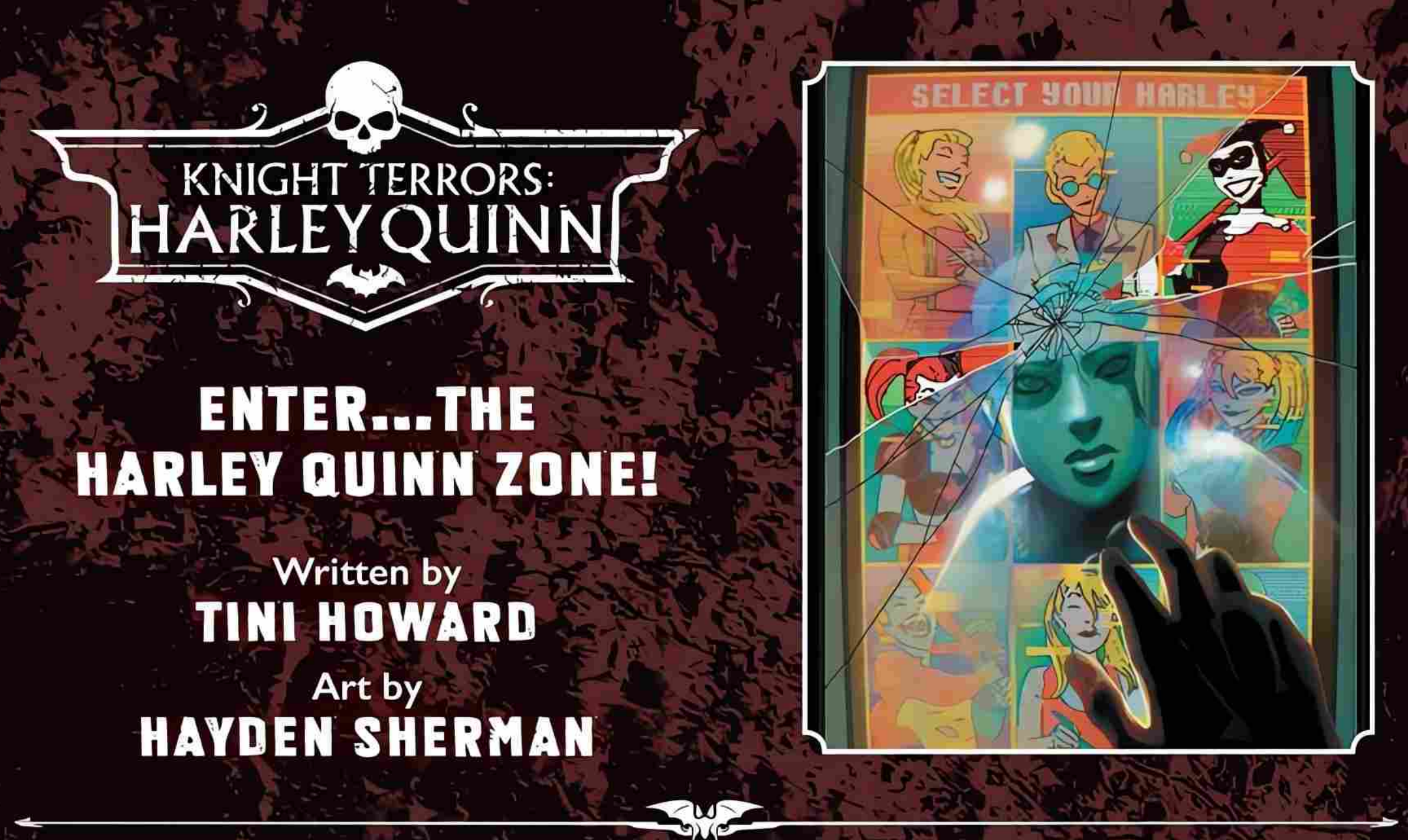


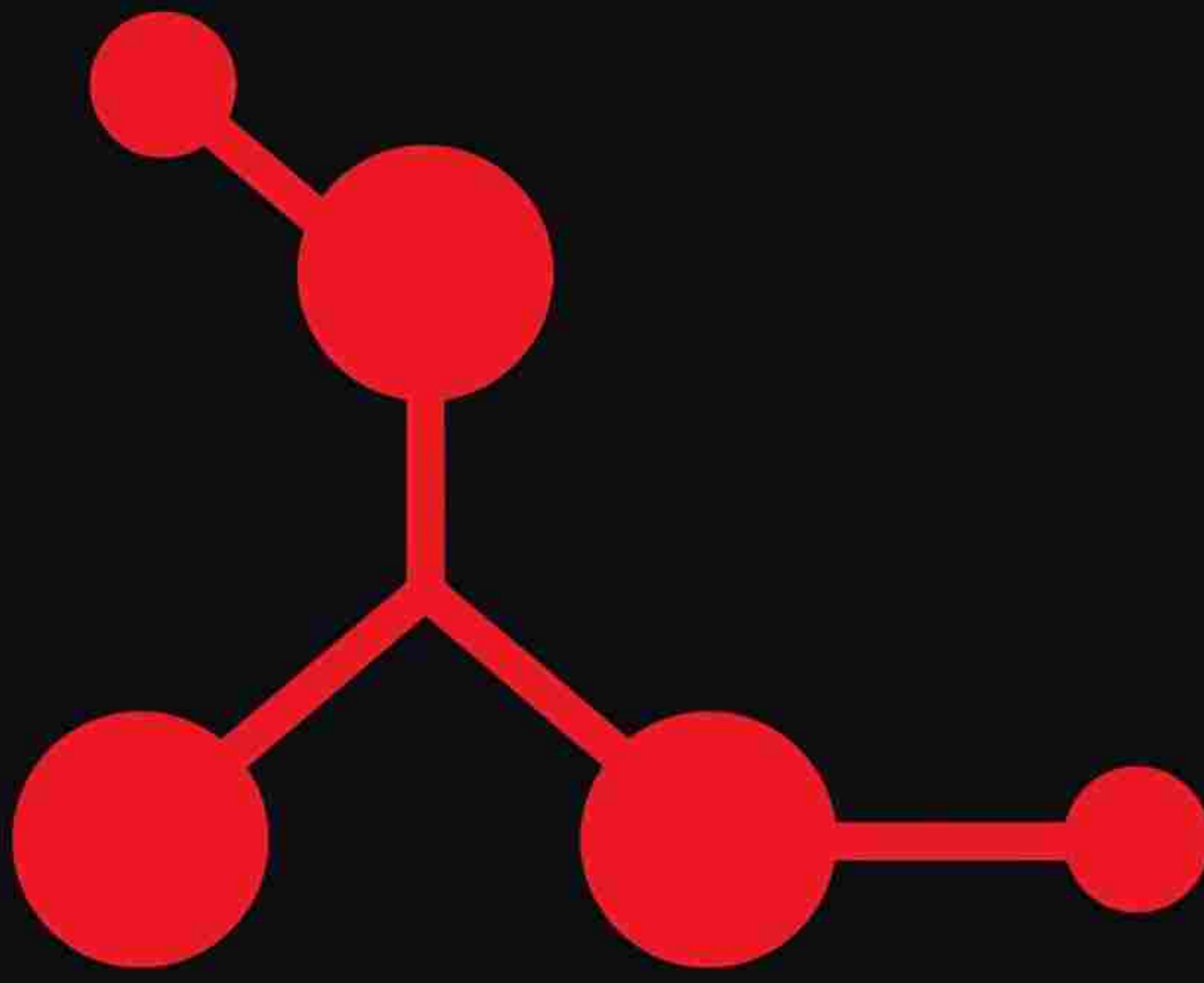
AND SO GREAT AND NEW
ALLIANCES BEGAN TO FORM. THE
LADS AND THE PRINCES! THE
ROUGHS AND KNIGHT! THE
PRINCESS AND THE OGRE!

BUT WILL THESE
DESPERATE FRIENDSHIPS
HOLD, OR WILL THEY FALL
APART UNDER THE INCREDIBLE
PRESSURES SOON
TO COME?!



TO BE
CONTINUED!





"ESCAPING A **DETERMINED KNIGHT** IS NO SIMPLE FEAT."

